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BIRTHS.

On the 8th June, at Burnbrae, Orange Grove Road, Shanghai, the wife of WILLY HASENBALG, of a daughter.

On the 7th June, at 35, Broadway, Shanghai, the wife of P. L. RAEBURN, of a daughter.

On the 12th June, at "Luginsland," West Peak Road, the wife of PAUL WITKOWSKI, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 27th May, at the English Episcopal Church, Nagasaki, by the Rev. A. B. Fuller, HARRY VANSITTART, eldest son of Henry DICKINSON, of Harrow, England, to MARY, youngest daughter of the late George HUNTER, of Longside, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

On the 28th May, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore, by the Rev. W. H. C. Dunkerley, W. BODGER, Station Master, Teluk Anson, Perak, to Miss M. Cook, of Hawston, Leicestershire.

DEATHS.

On the 10th June, at Kobe, ANDREW FERGUS WILLIAMSON, of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, Hongkong, and Gourrock, Scotland.

On the 12th June, at the Government Civil Hospital, WILLIAM HENRY MILLS, son of John and Henrietta MILLS, aged 4 months.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The American mail of the 11th May arrived, per P. M. steamer *Pera*, on the 16th June (30 days); the German mail of the 13th May arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Kiautschou*, on the 11th June (29 days); and the French mail of the 17th May arrived, per M. M. steamer *Sabla*, on the 16th June (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The date for the Chinese Court's departure from Hsianfu to Peking has been fixed by Imperial edict as the 1st September next.

It is declared at Washington that the Powers are not yet agreed as to the amount of the Chinese indemnity, although China has offered 450,000,000 taels.

The first plague case was recorded at Shanghai on the 7th inst., the victim being a fireman on the Belgian steamer *Charles Rogier*, which left Hongkong for Shanghai on the 26th ult.

A Peking telegram of the 10th inst. says:—The Boxer movement is reviving to the south of Paotingfu. The whole country is in a ferment. There will be no expedition of allied troops.

Lord Cranborne questioned in the House of Commons, said the Government understands that Germany intends to continue the maintenance of a garrison at Shanghai for the present, but that no explanation had been furnished to Great Britain.

The *Jiji* learns that arrangements have been made by the authorities for an addition of 100 torpedo-boats to the Japanese navy by the end of the 28th fiscal year, which ends in March, 1906. Of the above number, about 20 vessels will be constructed during the present year.

Sir Claude Macdonald, British Minister to Tokyo, accompanied by Lady Macdonald, left Tokyo for England on the 28th ult. The Japanese Ministers, Austrian, German, French and Belgian Ministers saw them off. It is stated that Sir Claude will return to his post in November.

With regard to the report of a riot in Quelpart and the murder of a French missionary, it now appears that the murdered man was a native convert and not a missionary. The origin of the riot is reported to be due to taxation. Some tax-gatherers were sent there from the Imperial Household Department recently, and the islanders resented the presence of these officials. Some native converts were employed by these officials to collect the tax, and a dispute ensued between these converts and the natives. It was not an attack on the entire body of native Christians. It is reported that the French Minister to Seoul gave instructions to the Commander of the French warship ordered to Quelpart not to land marines on the island. The French gunboat *Surprise* has now returned to Chemulpo.

On the 11th inst., Lord Cranborne, in the absence of Lord Lansdowne through illness, received a deputation from the Associated Chambers of Commerce. The deputation urged that the British Government should take adequate measures to safeguard British commercial and political interests in China, and also urged that Great Britain should aim at increased facilities for trade rather than a money indemnity. Lord Cranborne replying, said that the Government felt acutely the importance of the commercial aspect, and that it was the duty of the Government to secure to traders full opportunities for trade, but traders must be prepared to take certain risks lest they be supplanted by foreigners. He deprecated any international control of China, which implied disintegration.

An Imperial Decree has been issued ordering the people to respect the Lu Han railway and telegraph line as Chinese Government property, and also ordering the enrolment of an Imperial Railway Guard. Another Decree suspends all military and civil examinations for five years in all places where anti-foreign riots have occurred.

According to the *New Press*, on the retirement of Mr. Byron Brennan, C.M.G., Mr. Pelham Warren, C.M.G., will fill the position of British Consul General in Shanghai, his post at Hankow being taken by Mr. E. H. Fraser, C.M.G., at present on sick leave in Japan. Mr. Tratman will leave Chefoo to take over Mr. Fraser's duties at Chinkiang, while Mr. Brady, now home on leave, will replace Mr. Tratman at Chefoo. Mr. Hosie will relieve Mr. Fulford, at Newchwang. Mr. H. Sly had been transferred from Peking to Canton, while Mr. Smith has been transferred from Tientsin to Corea.

A Tokyo telegram of the 1st inst. to Shanghai says:—The new Cabinet has been formed by General Viscount Katsura, as Premier, the distribution of the more important portfolios being—Home Affairs, Baron Utsuno; Foreign Affairs and Finance, Mr. Sone; Justice, Mr. Kiyoura; Communications, Viscount Yoshikawa; Agriculture and Commerce, Mr. Hirata; Education, Dr. Kikuchi. The Ministers for the Navy and Army are as before, that is, for Navy, Admiral Yamamoto, and for Army, General Baron Kodama. Practically the new cabinet has been reconstructed from those statesmen who served under Field-Marshal Marquis Yamagata.

It is stated from London that the Ministers at Peking are not yet unanimous on several points connected with the Chinese indemnity. This is notably the case in connection with the time-limit question. China is willing to accept 40 years as the maximum period, but several Powers favour a longer period. Mr. Rockhill, the U.S. representative, insists upon the advisability of stipulating for the opening of the whole of China to foreign trade, instead of increasing the Tariff, and Japan is understood to favour this proposal. Sir Ernest Satow, however, opposes it. Mr. Rockhill has telegraphed to Washington that the Ministers refuse to refer the indemnity claims to the Hague Arbitration Court. The States in consequence decline to participate in a joint guarantee by the Powers.

The local Government of Peking, which was recently handed over by the Allies to the Chinese authorities, on probation, to see whether the latter will be able to keep order without outside help, is now conducted on the following lines, says the *N.-C. Daily News*:—The policing of the Tartar City is in charge of the Commandant of the Peking gendarmerie and his officers, who, together with the rank and file, are all Manchus. On the other hand the various sections, or "cities," outside the Tartar city walls, are under the control of the Police Censors of the Five "Cities," assisted by local gentry and petty police magistrates. Instead of the useless Green-turban troops (Chinese natives of Peking) who used to act as patrols and police in the Five "Cities" the Plenipotentiaries have now substituted foreign-modelled troops from the remnants of the Peiyang Army.

A YEAR OF ALLIED POLICY IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 12th June.)

It cannot be said that the supposed settlement of difficulties in China is very satisfactory, nor indeed is it apparent that anything has been done in the way of prevention of like troubles again. Yet it is clear that all sides are practically tired out, and somehow or other, if nothing external occur to upset the tacit pact, that affairs may go on till the next uprising much as usual. This seems to be the best that can be said, and meanwhile we can only hope that in the general outcome of affairs we shall be permitted to live in peace and comparative quietness. It is not a great victory to boast of; yet, we suppose it is something to be thankful for. If the course of affairs, has taught the Powers something, it has apparently taught the ignorant crew who surround the central government of China that there are luxuries too high for it to grasp at, and that its idea of being able to live by itself and for itself is a thing beyond its reach. It has apparently also taught it that it cannot govern China from the west, and that to all appearances the whole of China beyond the sea-coast provinces is practically unable to keep itself, much less to be able to dictate its will to the others. Hsianfu has proved an utter failure, and so far from enabling the Dowager Tsz'hi to be independent, it has actually emphasised the fact that the Dowager is more than ever a mere pensioner of the Yangtze Viceroys. It is well known to those who have been making a study of Chinese economics, that with the exception of Szechuen, for many purposes outside China, and never in harmony with the rest of the Empire, the west of China does not pay its own expenses and has to be kept going at the cost of the coast provinces. Of course the woman who has been essaying for years past to sway the Empire has not troubled herself to examine into the financial aspects of the state. For her it was sufficient to express the desire, and it was nothing to her where the money was to be found, that was the affair of the provinces. The game was a pleasant one as long as it lasted, and next to the Dowager the person most responsible was LI HUNG-CHANG, who in the days before the Japan war was foremost in pandering to her woman's greed. Of late years there have been unequivocal signs that the old milch-cow was running dry, and the crew of eunuchs and others who had possession of the avenues of the Court did not fail to attribute the failure to the presence of foreigners and the foreign trade that was sending the money out of the country. Logically the remedy was to get to a spot removed at once from the hated foreigner and foreign trade; and long before the late movement had assumed any considerable proportions it was well known that the Dowager Empress was plotting to remove her entourage to Hsian. To her Hsian was represented as a place where all the delights of Chinese life were to be found, where the people were respectful, and where the land was flowing with plenty. Hsian she knew had been, in the days when China was a light to the rest of the world, the seat of Empire, and tradition spoke of the delights and the luxuries of the court in those days and doubtless exaggerated the stories. Recent travellers in Shensi speak of the city as little better than a heap of ruins, and the adjacent country as relapsing to a desert. The destruction of the trees, the result of centuries of bad government, has

in Shensi reached its culmination, and above all the provinces of China, Shensi is the most subject to famine. It is notorious that the population is yearly decreasing, and that nearly every year thousands within it die of famine. For the last twenty years these scourges have been increasing, and Shensi has been alternately ravaged by rebellion or decimated by famine. It remained for the Dowager to give it its final blow. The ordinary demands on the productions of the valley of the Wei were in excess of its capabilities, but the last blow was struck when last autumn the Court flying from Peking settled down like a flight of locusts. The country produced little enough at the best of times for its ordinary inhabitants. Cut off from the rest of the Empire by impassable tracks, the Court found itself at times almost without the necessaries of life; the old imperial buildings had long ago vanished, and even the modern yamens were for the most part in ruins. It was little wonder that the presence of the Emperor so far from introducing life into the deserted city was really the harbinger of ruin, and was succeeded by a famine worse than even Shensi was accustomed to. It is then no marvel that the Court is just as anxious now to return to Peking as it was before to leave it; yet we should be deluding ourselves did we attribute this wish to return to any improved feeling or to any regret for the crimes of the past. As a fact the Dowager is still surrounded by the same flatterers as before the hegira from Peking. The pretended eunuch LI LIEN-YING is still as dear to his mistress as before, and the trusted councillor is still the notorious YUNG LU. More even than these is the influence of LU CHUAN-LIN still in the foreground, so that the old reactionary WANG WENSHAO, as we were accustomed to call him, has after a year of struggle and difficulty come to be looked upon as the apostle of progress.

This is not much to boast of, yet it seems to reckon up the results of a year of foreign statesmanship. The question of China is evidently left for our successors to lick into some sort of tangible shape. Doubtless it will be the making of some future statesman, and it is a comfort in this age of perfection to find that there is still left for some of our followers an untrod road to greatness.

MILITARY SYSTEMS OF RUSSIA AND CHINA.

(Daily Press, 8th June.)

It is curious as well as instructive to notice the very different results which the different military systems of Russia and China respectively have had in the case of the two nations. With practically the same material to work on, and beginning to all intents and purposes contemporaneously, the Russian Tsars have come to dominate the entire north of Asia, and even to be a standing menace in Europe; while the Empire of the Manchu chiefs, which two and a half centuries ago dictated its will to its northern neighbour, has now become little better than a ball at the feet of its once despised competitor. Though so different now, during the early half of the seventeenth century, in their Manchu and Cossack retainers respectively, the Hwangti and the Tsar were from a military point of view on an equality; inasmuch as each had at his disposal a body of hereditary soldiers, personally attached to the monarch, bound by long established custom to military service, and both skilled in the arts of war and

then practised, and indured with that traditional courage which only the practice of war for generations can imbue. Nowadays while the Cossack, in the hands of a succession of monarchs who have raised aggressive warfare to a cult, has become a menace to the civilisation of the world from his blind obedience to orders, however barbaric; the other, equally incapable of civilisation, has sunk to such utter insignificance that in China's lowest stage, when rebellion within and aggression without threatened her very existence, not one of her supposed Manchu troops was in a case to come forward in defence of the degenerate descendants of the chiefs who had so often led his ancestors to victory. Yet it was not for want of numbers, nor apparently for want of organisation; for all these so called Manchu troops, of which the number counts up to the hundreds of thousands, are placed in a few large so-called garrisons; and each of these garrisons is nominally under the command of a Manchu officer of the first rank—the equivalent indeed of a Viceroy. Moreover, the names of each individual at his birth is carefully registered; while during life he is kept under surveillance, and not permitted to dissociate himself from his fellows, nor engage in trade with his Chinese neighbours. When the Manchus had succeeded in completing their conquest of China, SHUNCHI, the first Emperor of the new line, in order to maintain the ascendancy of the race, fixed nineteen different garrisons in the chief strategic positions in the provinces. Of these, nine were placed in the chief provincial capitals from Canton to Hsianfu; while the remaining ten were located at other prominent points, as Chapu at the entrance of Hangchow Bay, Chinkiang at the crossing of the Yangtze by the Imperial Grain Canal, and Kingchow and Hupeh to guard the entrance to the Tungting Lake, &c. Separate funds were set apart for the sustenance of these garrisons, who were supposed to retain their military organisation, were divided into companies and brigades, and forbidden to intermarry or have any social relations with the Chinese in their vicinity. So well kept were the latter of these rules that up till the breaking out of the first war with England, these garrisons were maintained intact as far as their numbers and their perfect distinction from their Chinese neighbours were concerned; but apparently owing to the jealousy of the Chinese officials who had come by their astuteness in trade into possession of most of the administrative offices in the state, their military effectiveness had been utterly neglected. The men themselves, as they showed in the ineffective defence of Chapu when attacked by the British, preserved the native courage of the race, but in the absence of any military training or organisation their efforts were hopeless; and foiled in their attack on the English and reduced to despair, the men committed suicide rather than submit to the disgrace of surrender. This was the last stand that Manchus, as Manchus, seem to have made, and in the next period of trouble, when the Empire was almost on the verge of destruction at the hands of the Taiping rebels, on not one occasion were the forces in these garrisons utilised. Under very similar conditions as a people bound by tradition and long practise to military service were the early Tsars situated, with respect to their hereditary defenders. The Cossacks of the southern portions of their dominions along the Don and Volga had early been formed into a formidable body of warriors; and on the settlement of the Imperial power every care was taken to perfect the organisation.

The lands assigned to the various tribes were held by them on strictly military tenure. Every male on attaining to full age was bound to enter the military service for a defined term of years; in lieu of rent and taxes his family had to provide him with a caparisoned horse and to arm him according to regulation, and care was taken that these duties should be regularly performed in person and no substitutes allowed. Such was the origin of the famous Cossack organisation, which has provided for the service of the Tsars an army holding direct of the Crown, and not identified in any way with the Tsar's subjects at large. The Cossack, as the events of the last few months have proved, is equally ready to turn his arms against the students of St. Petersburg or the escaping fugitives from Blagoveschensk, and neither by association nor tradition has any sympathy with the other subject of the Tsar. It is this that renders the progress of Russia so dangerous to civilisation, and perhaps so far we may congratulate ourselves that the measures taken by the early Manchu Emperors were rendered useless by the apathy of their successors. Had the Tartar garrison of Peking, for instance, shown any military disposition whatever, and had, it joined the party of the nominal Manchu Empress—really by blood a Chinese, as the irony of fate makes it—there would have been no escape for the devoted Legations, and the serio-comedy of the *coup d'état* would have ended in a very different result than the scuttle to Hsian. The contrast is only another instance of the momentarily insignificant causes that ultimately result in world-wide effects.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE INDEMNITY.

(Daily Press, 10th June.)

Our London correspondent's telegram received yesterday is to the effect that the representatives of the Powers in China are not yet agreed as to several points in connection with the indemnity which that country is to pay. One of these points is the advisability of stipulating that the whole of the Chinese Empire shall be thrown open to foreign trade instead of the proposed increase of the Tariff. This proposal was made by Mr. ROCKHILL, the United States Commissioner, and it is understood that Japan is in favour of it. The British representative, Sir ERNEST SATOW, we are told, opposes it. If we understand the American proposal rightly, the throwing open of the whole of the Empire to foreign trade by the large increase which it will bring into the Imperial exchequer is to take the place of any augmentation of the existing Tariff. This general opening of China to foreign commerce is a necessity of the future, and no one can deny that the Powers should do all that they can to facilitate the process. The only question at issue is whether it can be brought about at once. Up to the present, even the opening of the inland waters to foreign trade and navigation, nominally conceded to Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, has never been effective. Mr. ROCKHILL's proposal is wider still in its scope. Its opponents, no doubt, question whether the time is yet come for such a sweeping change. We have no means at present of ascertaining how Sir ERNEST SATOW formulated his objections to the American proposal. It is unfortunate that, at the present crisis in the history of China's intercourse with the rest of the world, Great Britain is not represented by a man who inspires confidence in British

residents in China. Without wishing to cast any reflections on Sir ERNEST SATOW, we must recognise that it is becoming daily more evident that a statesman whose previous career would inspire more personal respect is urgently required to represent British interests in Peking. It may be doubted whether Sir ERNEST SATOW has ever developed a financial instinct, and the important questions now at issue are almost entirely financial. Among those who are engaged in the task of settling them there is a strong party who care but little about the commercial development of China, in which the nations whom they represent are likely to play little or no part. Britain, Germany, the States, and Japan, on the contrary, are very much interested in the matter. Yet only the two latter seem to act upon any definite line of policy which promises to secure the future of China in relation to the rest of the world. The majority of the Powers' representatives are only too willing to maintain the *status quo* with such few modifications as they cannot avoid. That any commercial nation should acquiesce in such a policy only indicates the badness of her advisers.

PLAGUE-PREVENTION IN JAPAN.

(Daily Press, 11th June.)

Recent copies of the Kobe newspapers have brought intelligence of the energetic way in which the Japanese authorities there are taking precautions against the possible introduction of plague into the town. The serious outbreaks in this Colony and in Formosa are said to have alarmed the Japanese, and they have decided that they cannot too soon be on their guard. As dead rats infected with plague have already, it would seem, been found in Tokyo, the Kobe authorities are showing wisdom in losing no time. It is instructive to note how Kobe has been acting with a view to keeping away the disease, and to compare its methods with those of Hongkong. As the local *Chronicle* remarks, in view of the difficulties found in extirpating the disease in Hongkong, Bombay, Cape Town, and in other places where it has found a hold, the success of the Japanese in stamping it out in Osaka, Kobe and Wakayama, so that the country is now quite free, is a thing of which they may well be proud. We do not overlook the difference of conditions in Kobe and Hongkong, nor do we forget the fact that plague now appears endemic here. We think, however, that a consideration of the way in which a practical people is fighting against a terrible threat is not unprofitable.

In the first place, the crusade against rats is being prosecuted with all possible vigour. The Japanese plague-experts are firmly convinced in the large share of guilt borne by rats in the dissemination of the disease, and indeed an universal crusade against these vermin has been advocated by some of them. The reward offered for every rat, live or dead, has been increased by the Kobe authorities from two to five *sen* since the 9th of last month, and all rats alike are examined for plague-germs, instead of only the dead ones as before. Seven to eight hundred daily was the average number of rats being brought in at the end of May, but no pest bacillus had been discovered up to that date. From all trace of the disease, indeed, Kobe has this year been entirely free, and the precautions taken by the authorities appear so complete that it is very reasonably hoped locally that plague will not show itself, or that if an isolated case should occur it will be at once

discovered and infection prevented. No less than twenty-eight doctors are engaged by the Kobe authorities. The houses of the poorer classes are, being medically inspected and cleansed under police superintendence, and large numbers of persons, some 26,500 in all, had by the end of May been inoculated with anti-plague serum. The latter proceeding the *Chronicle* designates as "a method of precaution which, as even the doctors do not seem to believe that it gives immunity for longer than a year, appears somewhat superfluous until the disease actually displays itself." It is nevertheless a sign of the whole-hearted way in which the Japanese are taking up the question of plague-prevention.

Now our sanitary authorities have been carrying on a vigorous crusade against rats from an early date last year, and in this particular it cannot be urged that they have been remiss. But of course the difficulties of coping with these vermin here are greater by far than in Japan, in fact probably greater than in any port of the East, owing to the bulk of our shipping. Moreover, the plague had got a firm hold on the place before a continuous warfare against them was begun. Whatever their actual connection with plague, there is no doubt that Hongkong labours under especial disadvantages as far as infection by rats is concerned, and we do not desire to minimise the difficulties of our sanitary conditions, as our drainage system is certainly one which fosters the harbouring of vermin. Taking the second point, however, that of the medical staff engaged on the spot, it need not be said to those who have read recent articles in these columns and in those of our contemporaries that Hongkong is shamefully undermanned medically, and that as far as can be seen no special efforts are being made to meet the emergency. Then as to medical inspection and cleansing of the poorer-class dwellings, this in Hongkong has been put off until the plague was on us in full violence. For reasons apparently sentimental we refrained from cleansing our villages during the season when plague practically was non-existent. A recommendation of the Sanitary Board on the point was rejected by the Legislative Council, and it was decided that the villages should remain dirty—with what result we now know. Even if we grant the contention of the Chinese members of the Council that it is a hardship on the villagers to make them keep their houses in a decent condition, it is an absurd parsimony on the part of the Government to hesitate about the cost of limewashing their dwellings for them. Much more money is being spent now, even on these very measures alone, to make up for this penny-wise and foolish policy. No long ago Great Britain was generally allowed the position of the most sanitary nation in the world. A few more Colonies like Hongkong would destroy this reputation for ever. It is plain that such sanitary authorities as we are favoured with have a lot to learn from our neighbours in the Far East; but we see little indication of their beginning to learn the lesson.

The Imperial Bank of China at Shanghai is reported to have received a wire from the Board of Revenue to the effect that the deposit receipt with the Bank held in name of the middle division of Wu-wei Army (of which Yung Lu is the ex-Generalissimo) has been declared to be missing and made null and void. The loss of this deposit receipt happened during the crisis. The Chinese Peace Plenipotentiaries have notified the foreign Ministers of its cancellation.

THE MISSIONARY TROUBLES AND A PROPOSED CURE.

(Daily Press, 13th June.)

We mentioned the other day that the Rev. TIMOTHY RICHARD had been invited by the Chinese officials at Peking to advise them how to deal with the missionary troubles in the northern provinces. He was requested in the first place to make such suggestions in connection with the difficulties which had occurred in Shansi, a province where he resided no less than ten years (1876-1886) and with which he has an intimate acquaintance. The native papers in Shanghai now publish a list of suggestions drawn up by Mr. RICHARD for the settlement of the Shansi troubles, and these, we think, will be read with interest here. It is to be noted in the first place that he does not deal with the question of the murder of foreigners, which he says lies in the hands of the foreign representatives and the Chinese plenipotentiaries. The suggestions which he submits, and which have been approved by LI HUNG-CHANG (who is reported to have been exceedingly pleased at the moderation of Mr. RICHARD's views, exclaiming that never yet in China has there been such an enlightened and moderate gentleman as the Rev. TIMOTHY RICHARD has shown himself to be, and that if his suggestions could be put into effect there would be no more missionary troubles in the empire), are as follows:—

1. Very many converts were murdered in the various prefecture departments and district magistracies on account of which the perpetrators are by law guilty of death. But I know that these men were really directed by the officials, and were also evilly influenced by the Boxers, and I have not the heart therefore to ask for condign punishment for all concerned; but I am of the opinion that in every prefecture where there were murderous riots one of the leaders of them should be punished as a warning to others. Furthermore, if the Governor of Shansi could issue earnest proclamations exhorting all sincerely to repent of their misdeeds, our missions will exercise leniency and ask for the pardon of the guilty leaders.

2. Although the gentry and people of Shansi who assisted in murderous attacks on converts are leniently dealt with, and no demands are made for the death penalty in their cases, they are not absolved from blame nor can they decline responsibility for the outrages. They must be punished by being made to indemnify the converts who lost their personal property and houses, as well as to take steps to pay for the support of orphans and widows.

3. The province of Shansi to be fined the sum of Tls. 500,000, to be paid up in ten years in annual instalments of Tls. 50,000. This money is, however, not intended for foreigners nor for native converts; but it should be devoted to the enlightenment of the people of Shansi, in the shape of schools for the purpose of practical education, so that the officials, gentry, *literati*, commoners, and their children may learn, and not suffer themselves to be evilly influenced by reason of their ignorance. A well-educated foreign and also a well-educated Chinese shall be selected to superintend and direct this matter.

4. Monumental stones setting forth the truth of the Boxers' crimes shall be erected in every place where converts were killed.

5. There were five missionary societies of the Protestant faith in Shansi, the members of some of which were all massacred, whilst others have gone to their own

country, and therefore cannot return at once to this country. But when more missionaries are sent out to China, and if these should come to Shansi, the officials and gentry shall be expected to treat them with propriety and apologise to them for what has happened.

6. To bring about the ending of all missionary complications and put matters on an enduring basis, Chinese officials must treat native converts exactly as they would non-converts. All should be treated impartially and regarded with benevolence on the part of the officials. If a convert breaks the law he should be dealt with strictly according to the law. Should a convert act deservedly, he should be promoted and rewarded and given the chance of becoming an official like any other person not a convert. If matters are managed in this way, no matter whether it is in China or in foreign countries, in the past or at the present day, there has never been any breaking of peaceful relations amongst the masses. If this question be not dealt with in the manner above suggested, it is to be feared that, much as peaceful relations may be desired, it will be impossible.

7. After this settlement is made, a list shall be kept of rioters' names, and if they do not repent and still persecute the Church, they must be punished according to law without hope of forgiveness.

To these suggestions Mr. RICHARD adds the advice that no time should be lost in engaging at once foreign experts in railways, mines, the manufacture of steel, in agriculture and commerce, and appointing them either as chief superintendents or colleagues of Chinese officials to set about opening up the country, thereby bringing prosperity amongst the people and peace between foreigners and natives. In conclusion, he states that twenty years ago he made these suggestions to both LI HUNG-CHANG and CHANG CHI-TUNG, but they were not then adopted; he trusts that it is not yet too late to adopt them. Mr. RICHARD's proposals really require no comment. They are practical and just. The fifth clause claims from Shansi an indemnity of 500,000 taels, which may with advantage be compared with the 7,000,000 claimed by the Roman Catholics in the same province, and the object to which the sum is to be devoted is clearly stated. Mr. RICHARD's proposals may be regarded as adequate to the situation, and require only that both parties, Christian and non-Christian, shall do their best to act up to them in order to furnish a more rational basis for missionary effort in China than has up to the present existed.

THE DEPARTURE OF SICK CHINESE FROM HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 13th June.)

We learn, on very good authority, that in response to a petition from the leading Chinese in the Colony, a deputation of influential Chinese at Canton has approached the Viceroy of that city and asked him to communicate with H.E. Sir HENRY BLAKE, with the object of allowing any Chinese who may be sick, through any cause, to leave the Colony for their homes in China. Hitherto, in response to unofficial requests, the Governor of the Colony has been unable to do this, because Great Britain is a party to the Venice Convention, which forbids any country dumping its sick and indigent into foreign territory. China did not sign the Convention, which omission did not release Great Britain from its duty. Now, however, if the Chinese officially ask for the Convention to be set aside, we see no reason why

such request should not be granted; for even the Chinese doctors know too well it is almost impossible to cure the many Chinese taken ill with plague in the Colony, for the simple reason that they, rich and poor alike, avoid coming under the doctor's care until the disease is so far developed as to admit of but one inevitable result. It is impossible at any time to prevent the Chinese surreptitiously leaving the Colony when sick, and if the granting of the Viceroy's request will pacify the growing feeling of resentment among the Chinese and at the same time remove a heavy and an unthankful responsibility from the shoulders of our overworked and undermanned medical department, it will be generally hoped the Government will see its way to acquiesce.

FRENCH RAILWAY SCHEMES IN YUNNAN.

(Daily Press, 14th June.)

The announcement that the Governor-General of Indo-China "has formed a company with a capital of seventy million francs to construct and exploit a railway into Yunnan," telegraphed by Reuter, would, were the enterprise any other than French, excite in most minds a lively satisfaction. It is true that Yunnan is a very malarious country, that it is the most mountainous, difficult, and inaccessible of the Chinese provinces, and that it is scantily populated, the entire population being estimated at less than twelve millions in an area of 107,969 square miles. But none the less is it rich in minerals, the copper mines having for centuries mainly supplied the wants of the Celestial Empire, while the salt deposits are also of great value. Gold and silver are likewise known to exist, and jade-stone is found in some districts. The soil is admirably adapted to the cultivation of the poppy, and a large quantity of opium is annually exported from the province. The famous Puerh tea is grown in the district known by that name, and there are other valuable products, which are capable of extensive development, were markets for them made accessible. There is no reason why France should not cherish, as a legitimate ambition, the desire and project to tap this province, and bring to its border a market for its varied products. Were this the aim of the French Government, we should heartily wish them all success; but when we have good reason to believe that the main idea in forming the company above referred to is not to open up trade and develop the resources of the country, but to spread French influence, enlarge the area of French colonies, and divert to French monopolists the trade and public works of another great country, then we find it difficult to accord our sympathy to French enterprise in this direction.

Unfortunately the French politicians and writers suffer acutely from earth-hunger, and to appease this malady they are everlastingly seeking to discover fresh countries, not for absorption, but merely for annexation on the map. Meantime the French people keep their thriftily saved money in the stocking, or cautiously invest it in Rentes or in real estate. Now and again, it is true, they get bitten by some wild-cat scheme like the Panama Canal project, which absorbed so many millions of hard-earned money, but as a rule French investors look askance at enterprises in distant countries, even if carried on under the aegis of the French Republic. Nor do Frenchmen seek these new countries either for purposes of trade or settlement. With the exception of a very few merchants, a few

mercantile adventurers, and some others who leave their country for their country's good, the only Frenchmen who go out to French Colonies are the little army of badly paid officials, and the naval and military forces detailed for their protection. To be quite just and fair, the officials proceed to do their work pretty thoroughly; good roads, bridges, and other works are undertaken and carried out with reasonable expedition, while careful surveys are made with a view to ascertaining the natural products and the capabilities of the soil. Nor is this all. In most French Colonies nurseries and gardens are formed and trials made of the cultivation of various products, to demonstrate to planters of what the soil is capable. In this matter, at any rate, our French friends furnish a noteworthy example to the British authorities.

Where the French Government fail most egregiously is in the proper encouragement of trade. Not only do they strangle commerce in its infancy by the imposition of high protective duties; they do not even do the best they might with their own opportunities. French capital, one would imagine, encouraged by the tariff-walled for its benefit, would readily enter such an arena and secure the field prepared for it. Such, however, is not the fact. Under the baleful shadow of protection, trade slowly languishes, and ports like Fagon and Haiphong, which should be great centres of trade and busy marts, are in reality stagnant cities maintained almost entirely by the Chinese demand for rice, of which, notwithstanding French protection, there is still a large export. France is a manufacturing country and has great facilities, with her scientific inventors and skilful craftsmen, for turning out both good and cheap manufactures. Yet her colonies do not materially increase in spite of the protection accorded to them. The illiberal fiscal policy of the French Government naturally causes other countries to look with intense disfavour upon any efforts to create new Gallic preserves where their goods will be barred out by a prohibitory tariff. No Power therefore would like to see France established in the position of a protectorate over Yunnan. England, Germany, the United States, and Japan only desire for themselves and others a fair field and no favour; they are perfectly willing that French goods should find their way into Yunnan on equal terms with their products. This, however, is not what France seeks: she desires a monopoly of the market for her manufactures, and, like Russia, will tolerate no rival in the field. What has happened in Indo-China would be repeated in Yunnan if French officials had their way. The projected railway to Yunnan, like the Russian line through Manchuria to Port Arthur, is intended as the first link in the chain by which it is hoped to enlarge the boundaries of Indo-China and build up an Empire rivalling India in its extent, if not in wealth. Having lost India, France is ever looking to Indo-China to form the base of a new eastern empire which may compensate her for that loss. While, however, her traders cling so steadfastly to the soil of *la belle France*, and her rulers continue to hug their policy of protection, French enterprise abroad is never likely to flourish; and French methods can only arouse distrust or excite opposition.

Shanghai merchants have addressed a letter of thanks to M. Ratard, French Consul-General, for his efforts in having reduced the arbitrary taxes which the local Chinese authorities were proposing to place upon the silk trade.

SUGGESTED PLAGUE MEASURES.

(Daily Press, 15th June.)

After the reception given at the Sanitary Board meeting on the 8th May to H.E. the Governor's suggestion that plague patients at Yaumati should be allowed to be treated in their own homes under certain conditions, it was hardly to be expected that the same Board would welcome the proposal of Mr. E. OSBORNE that "persons suffering from plague (or under observation) be allowed to remain in their own homes, provided all other persons occupying the same floor are removed, except three adults to attend the patient, and provided a written certificate be produced from a medical practitioner that he has charge of the case." Nevertheless the discussion on Thursday last served an useful purpose, in that the question was very well ventilated in the course of a long debate. Mr. OSBORNE, introducing the first motion standing in his name, very justly observed that the history of plague epidemics in this colony since 1894 reveals the discouraging fact that though we have done what seemed right and proper at the moment, our efforts to cope with the disease have never been successful. He went on to express the opinion that the cause of failure lies in the fact that we have forced upon the Chinese measures which were impalatable, and which have caused them to thwart us surreptitiously at every turn. Therefore, as a concession to Chinese prejudices, he proposed that plague sufferers and suspects should be treated in their own homes, provided all other persons but three attendants be removed from the same floor as the patient's room, and that a medical practitioner certify that he has charge of the case. Mr. OSBORNE backed up his proposal with a lively picture of the horrors of the plague hospital and of the journey thither, at which subsequent speakers scoffed, though we think that there can be little doubt that the truth lies between the statements of Mr. OSBORNE and Dr. BELL. With regard to the general proposal of Mr. OSBORNE, Dr. BELL's criticisms were trenchant and to the point. It may well be asked: Where are all the people to go who leave the houses? Where are the people to look after the patient? Where can we get medical men to take charge of the case? How can we be certain that the patient was kept continuously isolated? Mr. OSBORNE does not appear to have stated definitely whether he intended his proposal to apply equally to all classes. If he did, it is plain that as far as the coolie class is concerned the scheme could never come into operation. There are no houses in the colony where one floor can be devoted to a plague-stricken coolie and his three attendants. Nothing less than a wholesale depopulation of this overcrowded city could render this feasible. Among all the non-Chinese cases this year, it has only been found possible to treat two patients in private houses. How then can we imagine an extension of the plan to the Chinese coolies. We fully recognise the strength of the argument that removal from home and friends to the depressing surroundings and meagre medical attendance of the plague hospital conduces not a little to the likelihood of the patient's death, and it would be gross inhumanity not to admit that the state of affairs now existing in the colony with regard to the treatment of plague sufferers must be remedied at all costs. But beside our duties to the sick there are our duties to the sound and well. The home-treatment of patients must either be impracticable, under the conditions suggested by Mr. OSBORNE,

or a menace to the hitherto uninfected portion of the colony, without these conditions. The members of the Sanitary Board by leaving the motion unsupported by a vote did what Hongkong had a right to expect of them.

Mr. OSBORNE's second motion, "that the bodies of Chinese who have died of plague may be confined in the usual Chinese manner by relatives or friends and removed from the colony without any restrictions," commended itself to the Board, and seeing the substantial nature of a Chinese coffin there appears no reason for opposing the plan, provided that proper precautions are taken and that the removal from the colony be prompt. It is more a matter of concession to a strong national sentiment than of anything else, and if it stops the horrible practice of dumping corpses in the street it will serve a good purpose. At the same time the proper precautions must be insisted on, so that the concession to Chinese feeling may not be attended by danger to the rest of the community as well as to themselves.

Not the least interesting part of the discussion on Thursday was the passage, not entirely relating to the motions under consideration, which dealt with the subject of sick Chinese leaving the colony—the "wriggling out of the Venice Convention," as a member of the Board described it. We have already spoken of a probable petition to H.E. the Governor through the Viceroy at Canton to permit these departures, which have already been taking place surreptitiously to a certain extent. The remarks offered by the Captain Superintendent of Police, based on his experience of the Chinese police in the colony, were very apposite. Pointing to the habit of these lukongs, when sick, of disregarding the regulation requiring them to go to the Government Civil Hospital and instead going to their homes, Mr. MAY said that the idea which the men had—a good idea at bottom—was to get back to their native villages, where there was plenty of fresh air. If they died, they knew where they would be buried. In the same way, if a coolie got sick and wanted to leave the colony, he would leave it. The point, in fact, is this. We cannot, from the facts of our situation, strictly enforce the rules of the Venice Convention. The exodus of Chinese will continue as long as a scare exists in Hongkong, and there are many who would rather see the exodus legalised, if possible, so as to relieve overpressure at this critical period and give the mass of the inhabitants, who do not intend to leave the island, a better chance of escaping the scourge which is now upon us. There is no question of yielding to pressure from the Viceroy of Kwangtung. If H.E. TAO MU assists his countrymen in their appeal to the Governor, it is absurd to contend that the request should be refused for fear the Hongkong authorities should appear to be obeying the commands of a superior. What we have to obey, if Hongkong is to prosper, are the laws of health. It does not seem, from the hold which the plague has had on the colony since 1894, that we have done so hitherto, and it is plain that we must alter our treatment. On the point at issue, all the Chinese and a large number of prominent Europeans are agreed to recommend a new departure, and we hope, as we have said before, that the Government may see its way to acquiesce. Even if no good comes of the plan, we do not see that any harm will ensue.

A sum of \$100,000 has been put at the disposal of the Resident Superior for defraying the expenses of organising the Hanoi Exhibition of 1902 and erecting the palaces.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 8th June, 9.10 a.m.

The Italian Legation at Peking has received the news of the massacre in April last of 15 Belgian priests and all their male converts on the Mongolian border.

SHANGHAI, 9th June, 7.20 p.m.

An Imperial decree issued on Friday, the 7th instant, appoints the 1st September as the date in which the Court will leave Hs'nanfu for Peking.

SHANGHAI, 12th June, 8 p.m.

Prince Chun's mission of apology to Germany will leave Peking at the end of July.

An Imperial Decree has been issued ordering the people to respect the Lu Han railway and telegraph line as Chinese Government property, and also ordering the enrolment of an Imperial Railway Guard.

SHANGHAI, 18th June, 7.38 p.m.

An Imperial Decree suspends all military and civil examinations for five years in all places where anti-foreign riots have occurred.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

On the 13th inst. a meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the Board Room. The President (Hon. W. Chatham, Acting Director of Public Works) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Vice-President (Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Bell (Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer), Lieut.-Col. Hughes, R.A.M.C., Mr. A. Brewin (Registrar General), Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. Chan A. Fook, Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

HEALTHY CHINESE HOUSES.

The following letter, with plans attached, was submitted from Mr. Fung Wa Chuen relative to the minute of H.E. the Governor regarding the erection of properly-lighted and ventilated Chinese houses:—

"Sir,—I have the honour to report, for the information of the members of the Board, that I have consulted the leading Chinese of the colony about the plan of new houses suggested by H.E. the Governor. After due consideration, they are of opinion that although the proposed houses will be far better lighted and ventilated than those at present in existence, they can still be improved. They therefore recommend that the scheme of semi-detached houses be adopted instead, as the erection of blocks of two houses, 15 feet by 50 feet each, within a 15 feet lane between each pair of houses and at the back, permits of light and ventilation getting to the houses from three sides, and also allows the lanes to be publicly scavenged. I beg to enclose a rough sketch which I have made of the houses in question."

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. Fung Wa Chuen—"Every two houses means an additional area of 250 square feet."

Mr. Osborne—"Mr. Fung Wa Chuen's plan is the only really effective solution of the difficulty, but it would be very costly."

Dr. Clark—"The Government should provide the side lanes and the owner the back lane."

Hon. F. H. May—"I am afraid the cost puts the plan out of the question."

The PRESIDENT thought the plan was the best that could be adopted, but it had one drawback—it would be a very costly one. One item of expenditure would be the lighting necessary for the lanes, which would necessitate the erection of numerous lamps. Otherwise the scheme was an excellent one and well worthy of consideration. He was of opinion that it might be adopted.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN said his plan compared very favourably with that of the Governor's, which proposed a house 20 feet by 5', while his (the speaker's) contemplated a

house 15 feet by 50. Besides that, the plan was not so costly, looked at properly.

Dr. CLARK saw nothing to object to in the plan except its cost.

Mr. BREWIN—Then the case is simply the cost to the Government? The Government is not going to make so much profit out of a square foot of land as formerly?

Mr. MAY—Yes.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that the plan, as it stood, did not conform to the existing Ordinance, which would have to be amended to meet it.

After discussion, Mr. OSBORNE asked—What are we to do?

Dr. BELL—We must either adopt it or not adopt it.

Mr. MAY—I move we ask the Government what the specific proposal is—whether these building regulations should apply to land hereafter sold by the Crown, or whether they are also intended to apply to land already sold for the re-erection of houses.

Mr. OSBORNE—The Governor has sent down that plan and asked our opinion of it.

Dr. CLARK asked if the Chinese had any objections to the plan.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN said there were two objections—the first that the inmates of one cubicle could see into the next cubicle, and the second that if people on any of the upper floors threw rubbish into the street, no one could say where it came from, and the blame was generally fixed on the tenants of the ground floor.

The PRESIDENT then put Mr. May's proposal to the meeting—that the Board ask the Government whether the plan submitted refers only to Crown land to be sold, or also to land on which houses are to be re-erected.

Dr. BELL seconded, and the motion was carried.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The report was laid on the table of the committee appointed to consider the suggestions of Dr. Clark for reducing the excessive infant mortality of the colony.

The PRESIDENT proposed that the report be adopted and forwarded to the Government.

Mr. MAY said that in his opinion the infant mortality was greatly exaggerated by the Medical Officer of Health, and that the importation of infants had been left out in the count. The number coming from Canton and Macao, if included, would be found to average three a day. The number of Chinese coming into the colony during the year had been estimated at 10,000, and he (Mr. May) did not think that that estimate was very far out.

Dr. CLARK did not think that the infant death-rate had been exaggerated. Chinese parents were not bound to register a birth before six weeks, and in his opinion the number of infants who died before they reached that age, and whose deaths consequently could not be registered, counterbalanced the number of deaths registered amongst infants imported into the colony.

Mr. BREWIN asked if it was the case, as the Medical Officer of Health said in his report, that of every thousand children born in the colony seventy-two died.

Dr. CLARK—No, seventy-two live.

Mr. BREWIN, continuing, said they ought not to take measures simply on account of an exceptional death-rate in one year. In either 1895 or 1896, for instance, 400 out of a thousand infants lived—a great contrast to the present death-rate.

Dr. BELL, speaking with reference to a proposal to offer a fee for every birth registered, said the first step was to get the births registered. They were registered in every blessed British colony except Hongkong. The colony had been running for 55 years, and yet it had never been able to get it done. If the Chinese could not be made to obey the law, it would be impossible to compile correct figures. He was surprised to know that a law to compel registration existed here, but in his sixteen years of living in the colony he had never heard of a man being prosecuted for non-compliance with that law.

Mr. BREWIN—It has only been in force for four years.

Dr. BELL—It ought to have twenty-four years. In these four years I have never heard of anyone being prosecuted.

The PRESIDENT's motion to adopt the report and forward it to the Government, which was seconded by Dr. CLARK, was put to the meeting and carried. Neither Mr. May nor Mr. Brewin voted.

LIGHTING OF THE CENTRAL MARKET.

At a meeting of the Sanitary Board on 4th April, it was resolved to recommend the Government to call upon the Acting Director of Public Works for a report as to what improvements could be effected in the natural and artificial lighting of the Central Market.

This recommendation was submitted to the Government in a letter dated 5th April, and in replying, under date 17th May, the Hon. T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary, stated that the Director of Public Works, on 16th May, reported that a section of the Central Market had been experimentally fitted up by the Electric Light Company with a lamp over each shop in such section. The Government, it was further stated, would be glad to have a report from the Board on the working of the experiment after it had received a fair trial. The letter concluded by stating that the Director of Public Works had also submitted a proposal to heighten 92 windows in the ground floor at an estimated cost of \$3,100—a sum which His Excellency the Governor intended to recommend the Legislative Council to vote for the purpose.

Dr. CLARK—I think this is a matter that should be referred to a committee. The President and myself were in the market one night after seven o'clock, and we made a few experiments. We suggested that a committee of two should be appointed to decide the best way of lighting the Central Market, and report to the Board to that effect.

Mr. BREWIN seconded.

The proposal was adopted, the President and Dr. Clark being appointed as the committee.

THE 1902 ESTIMATES.

On 3rd June, Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Acting Secretary to the Board) wrote to the Hon. T. Sercombe Smith (Acting Colonial Secretary) drawing attention to the following recommendations of the Board in connection with the 1902 Estimates:—(1) That the sum of \$15 a month be paid to the Police Inspector in charge of Kowloon City; (2) that an increase be made in the pay of the engineer at the disinfecting station of from \$18 to \$35 a month; (3) that a stoker be engaged at \$12 a month for the disinfecting station, in lieu of the watchman who now gets \$9.

Intimation has now been received that the recommendations have been approved by Government.

The papers were laid on the table.

THE LAYING OUT OF NEW DISTRICTS.

At a meeting of the Board on the 30th ult., it was unanimously decided to ask H.E. the Governor to direct that before any district was laid out for building purposes the plan showing the proposed laying out should be submitted to the Board.

The resolution was forwarded to the Government, and a reply has been received in which the Governor suggests that the following resolution should be adopted by the Board:—

"That H.E. the Governor be pleased to direct that, when any district has been laid out on a plan with a view to the sale of the land for building purposes, the plan be submitted to the Board for its consideration." The resolution extends only to areas in which there is prospect of considerable development in the near future.

The PRESIDENT, after reading the resolution in its new form, said—I see no objection to the adoption of this proposal, and suggest that it be passed.

Dr. BELL seconded, and the resolution was carried.

CLOSING OF CHINESE THEATRES.

Papers were laid on the table relative to the recommendation made at a recent meeting of the Board to close Chinese theatres during the prevalence of the present epidemic of bubonic plague. The reply from Government showed that the theatres had been closed from the 10th inst.

QUICKLIME AND PLAGUE BURIALS.

The following letter, dated 3rd May, 1901, from the Colonial Secretary's Office was read:—

"Sir,—I am directed by H.E. the Governor to enquire whether, in the opinion of the Sanitary Board, the use of quicklime in the

burial of plague cases, which have ended fatally, could be discontinued with safety; having regard to the question of ground adulteration."

Dr. Clark, to whom the letter was passed, minuted to the effect that he attached no importance to the use of lime, and was quite prepared to discontinue its use. The danger to the community from a dead body buried six feet below the surface was practically nil. The discontinuation of the use of lime would, however, necessitate more durable coffins.

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. Fung Wa Chuen—"If the M.O.H. and the P.C.M.C. are of opinion that the use of quicklime in the burying of dead bodies is of no use, the practice should be discontinued. I agree with M.O.H. that more durable coffins should be used."

Dr. Bell—"Seems no use."

Hon. F. H. May—"If bodies clear of plague are never to be disinterred, the sooner the plague cemetery at Mount Davis is closed the better. Some of the best sites in the colony have been sacrificed already to this cemetery, and it is in my opinion a simple waste to go on burying in Mount Davis, and is besides a bad advertisement for the colony."

Mr. MAY—I should like to know if any quicklime is of no use, or only Hongkong quicklime.

Dr. BELL—Any quicklime.

Mr. MAY—Well, I don't know. In England, I believe, when a man is hung, the body disappears in three weeks when buried in quicklime.

Dr. BELL—If you ever heard of a case where a body so buried disappeared in three weeks, I should like to know about it.

Dr. CLARK—I think we might forward to the Government a suggestion that the use of quicklime be discontinued.

The PRESIDENT seconded, and the proposal was agreed to.

THE REFUSE-DESTRUCTOR.

The following reply from the Government relative to an application by the Board for the erection of a refuse-destructor was read:—

"Colonial Secretary's Office,

"11th June, 1901.

"Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 3rd inst., I am directed to inform you that an incinerator for the cremation of cattle having been ordered, His Excellency is of opinion that it should be tried for the purpose of consuming rubbish in addition to its proper use."

Dr. CLARK—I move that a reply be sent to the Government to the effect that the cattle incinerator will give no indication as to the advantages or disadvantages of a refuse-destructor in this city.

The motion, which was seconded by the PRESIDENT, was carried.

THE TREATING OF PLAGUE CASES AT HOME.

Mr. E. OSBORNE, pursuant to notice, moved:—

"1. That persons suffering from plague (or under observation) be allowed to remain in their own homes provided all other persons occupying the same floor are removed, except three adults to attend the patient, and provided a written certificate be produced from a medical practitioner that he has charge of the case. Such medical practitioners to be nominated by Government, their names and addresses published, and to report at once to the Medical Officer of Health if they find the patient is not kept isolated, in which event the patient be immediately removed to the Plague Hospital.

"2. That the bodies of Chinese who have died of plague may be confined in the usual Chinese manner by relatives or friends and removed from the colony without any restrictions."

In making the motion, Mr. OSBORNE said:—About a fortnight ago we considered a suggestion from His Excellency the Governor that plague patients should be treated in their own homes, but the audacity of the idea, if I may thus describe it, so paralysed the Board that we all with one accord voted against it. A fortnight's reflection has, however, taught me that the suggestion, startling as it first appeared, touched one of the vital spots wherein I think lies the secret of success, if ever we are to be successful in grappling with this most insidious and deadly of diseases, for I believe, and have always believed, that we shall never make headway without the voluntary co-operation of the Chinese, and I think that our future endeavours should tread in the direction of securing, if necessary, by reasonable concessions, the assistance of the people themselves, first in the discovery of the disease and subsequently in the treatment of those who become its victims. The history of plague epidemics in this colony since 1894 reveals the discouraging and sorrowful fact that though we have done what seemed right and proper at the moment, our efforts to cope with the disease have never been successful, and the cause of failure lies. I think, in the fact that we have forced upon the Chinese measures which were impalatable and which have caused them to surreptitiously thwart us at every turn. I am not saying that these measures should not have been tried. I merely say they have been tried and failed, and should therefore be discontinued, that we should in future act upon lines which will induce the co-operation of the natives and which, I think, can be brought about by conceding to some extent to their ignorance and prejudices and by conforming as far as possible with their ideas. The two motions which I am about to propose have this end in view, the first as a concession to the living and the second both to the living and the dead. Those who are familiar with our method of searching out and dealing with persons suffering from plague, cannot fail to have any but the most intense pity for the sufferer who, dragged by force from friends and home, conveyed in a comfortless ambulance through miles of streets, sometimes under a burning sun, deposited in the dreaded hospital and tended by strangers, lies, amidst the most depressing surroundings within touch of the dying, within sight of the dead, and within earshot of the hammering-down of coffins, waiting in solitary despair till death completes the work which insanitation and disease began. This is no exaggerated or fanciful picture of my own, but a faithful representation of reality and one that exists, and correctly so, in the minds of the Chinese. No wonder then that every Chinese man, woman and child who can possibly afford to leave the colony does so the moment they fall sick, and frequently beforehand. No wonder that friends smuggle away their sick and dead, or failing the latter and fearing the consequences of being identified with the corpse, dump it into the street. With a view to prevent this wholesale scuttling from the colony, to stop the dumping of bodies, to discover the sources of infection, and to get at the true death-rate of the colony, we should, I think, allow the sick to be treated in their own homes under certain conditions, and permit the bodies of the dead to be confined in the usual Chinese manner and removed to their ancestral home for burial. At first, comparatively few would probably avail themselves of the privilege, but when the concession came to be known, when it came to be understood that a man could die of plague attended by his friends and in his own home, and buried according to his most cherished ideas, I think that many who could afford the services of a doctor would do so, and those who, through poverty, could not, would be less reluctant to go to the native hospital if they were assured of being treated by their friends, and, in the event of death, being removed from the colony without fear. These, sir, are my proposals, based on His Excellency the Governor's suggestion, and though these are details which would require to be carefully considered, I put them forward in the firm conviction that if adopted they will not be barren of good results.

Mr. OSBORNE then moved the adoption of the first motion.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN seconded, and said the present system of dealing with plague patients or plague suspects was doing more harm than good. They had been going on the same lines for the last seven years, and nothing to benefit the health of the colony was being done. In his opinion, a sufferer from plague had as good a chance of recovering in his own house as in the hospital.

Dr. BELL, in opposing the motion, said it had apparently been brought forward with that vague idea they all had of trying to stop plague. Plague came every year, and they could not stop it. To prove this he had only to point to India, where they tried with all sorts of nonsense. The proposal to treat patients in their own homes had already been

discussed, and he had then explained his reasons for opposing it. Mr. Osborne had said something about details, but did not explain what those details were. Where were all the people to go who left the house? Where were the people to look after the patient? Where would they get a medical man to take charge of the case? How could they be certain that the patient was kept continuously isolated? The only way of making sure would be for the doctor to sit in the room, and a medical man would not be in practice long if it were known he was sitting with plague people. It was an old story that a sick Chinaman could not bear to be taken to the hospital, but it was a wrong one. The only time such a thought entered a Chinaman's head was when he read the statements of people who ought to know better. Again, Chinese patients were not treated by strangers and coolies. They were treated—within the last seven weeks at least—by trained nurses, and there were Chinese servants to whom they could talk and ask for anything they wanted. There was only one way to treat plague, and that way was not by allowing coolies to be treated in their own houses. It would be a most disgraceful proceeding to do so. As regarded the story about the nailing down of coffins, that was all imagination. Mr. Osborne was fond of indulging in imagination. The nailing down was done a long way from the patients. Europeans might hear, but not the Chinese. As to the "long procession of coffins," it did not pass in front of the Chinese matsheds, but in front of European houses. Incidentally, that was to be remedied. The whole story, to Dr. Bell's mind, was pure imagination. There was no place where sick Chinese had a better chance than in a British hospital, and, further, the amount of harm done to them by carrying them, when delirious, through the streets, was practically non-existent, or at least nothing compared to the benefits derived from treatment in the hospital. Where a man had plenty of money, he might be treated in his own house, because he could afford to have all the necessary precautions taken to secure isolation and skilled treatment, and prevent the spread of the disease. But a coolie—that was a different question. Concluding, Dr. Bell said he opposed the motion, and that tooth and nail.

Mr. MAY was also opposed to the proposal, and spoke in a similar strain to Dr. Bell. For the benefit of the gentleman who moved it, he would point out that Chinese plague patients were not treated in a British hospital but in one of their own, run by their own nationals. The stories about the "procession of coffins," the "binging down of coffin lids," and all that, were quite untrue. Mr. May said he had been down to the Tung Wah Plague Hospital, and saw nothing of the kind. In '94 and again in '98—especially in the latter year—they had gone as far as they could possibly go to meet the objections of the Chinese. They had even said to them—"If you are sick you can go anywhere you like out of the colony, so long as you start from a particular wharf and leave your name and address." Only three Chinese availed themselves of this permission to leave the colony when they knew they were sick of plague. The reason was that the expense was too great, the Chinese catching plague being generally poor coolies. As soon as a man of that class got sick he went home, no matter what his illness may be. Under the speaker's charge were several hundred Chinese police, not one of whom paid the slightest attention to the regulation requiring any man in the force, when sick, to go to the Government Civil Hospital. He had long ago given up trying to enforce that regulation. Were he to dismiss every man who disobeyed the rule, at the end of six months there would not be a Chinese constable left. They simply went off to their rural homes, and wrote—"Honoured Sir,—I feel a little sick. I feel I could not get well anywhere than in my native village, so I hope you will grant me a fortnight's leave." "And I," continued Mr. May, "simply answer—Kind friend, when you feel better, please return to your duty." (Laughter.)

Continuing, the speaker said the idea these men had—a good idea at bottom—was to get back to their native villages, where there was plenty of fresh air. If they died, they knew where

they would be buried. The adoption of Mr. Osborne's idea would not help things in the least, because it was impracticable. If they could wriggle out of the Venice Convention, so much the better. If a coolie got sick and wanted to leave the colony, he would leave it.

Dr. CLARK, who also opposed the motion, said that it had been amply shown that plague spread from floor to floor, so that the treating of a patient in his own house would not limit its scope. As Dr. Bell and Mr. May had said, the scheme was impracticable, and the difficulties in the way of carrying it out were many.

Mr. CHAN A FOOK said that what they wanted to do was to exterminate plague, but after seven years of trying they were no nearer that end. Mr. Osborne's proposal might be given a trial for a few months to see if it would have a salutary effect. Notwithstanding all that had been said to the contrary, the feeling amongst the Chinese was that in going to the hospital they were going to their death.

Lieut.-Col. HUGHES did not agree with Mr. Chan A Fook that they were no nearer the suppression of plague now after seven or eight years' trying. When one came to look at it, the fact that cases now-a-days averaged only twenty was good enough proof that the sanitary schemes were having practical results. As to Mr. Osborne's proposal, if people were turned out of their homes, where, as Dr. Bell had asked, were they to go? How were they to know that they did not return home at night? Lastly, where were all the doctors coming from to look after them?

Mr. OSBORNE, speaking with some warmth, said there was an old proverb that "none were so blind as those who won't see." Dr. Bell had drawn a very beautiful picture—so beautiful, indeed, that the wonder was that a coolie, to get to the hospital, did not wilfully contract plague to get there. It was an extraordinary thing that, with plague raging all round, they could only hear of about 20 or 30 cases daily. What became of the others? People left the colony with plague, sometimes at the earliest stages, often at the latest, and the police and sanitary authorities knew nothing about it. His proposal opened up a way to stop a great deal of that illicit traffic. He did not intend that a European doctor should go round attending these coolies; he meant a Chinese doctor trained in Western medicine. It was absurd on Dr. Bell's part to suppose he meant otherwise.

Dr. BELL—It is still more absurd of you to talk of a Chinese doctor trained in Western medicine.

Mr. OSBORNE—A man trained in Western medicine in a local hospital.

Dr. BELL—You can't get one at \$500 a month.

Mr. OSBORNE—I've got one at \$100.

Dr. BELL—That's the last one.

Mr. OSBORNE, dealing with statistics of the plague, described them as "rotten," and said they proved nothing.

The motion was then put to the meeting by the PRESIDENT, but found no supporters.

In submitting the second motion, Mr. OSBORNE agreed with Mr. May in the desirability of wriggling out of the Venice Convention, than which nothing could be more ridiculous or absurd.

Mr. CHAN A FOOK again seconded.

Dr. CLARK, after referring to the improbability of a body, after years of burial, still retaining the germs of infection, said he would not oppose the motion.

Dr. BELL said it was against the spirit of the Venice Convention.

Dr. CLARK—I don't oppose if the Government are of opinion that the motion will not mean a contravention of the Venice Convention.

The PRESIDENT—Will you accept that?

Mr. OSBORNE—I had better take half a loaf (laughter.)

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried. Lieut.-Col. Hughes was the only dissident.

INSPECTOR'S QUARTERS AT KENNEDYTOWN.

A recommendation was submitted by Dr. Clark relative to the quarters of the inspector in charge of the animal depots, at Kennedytown. The recommendation was to the effect that Inspector Watson, through persistent efforts to treat the *anopheles* pools

and clear away the brushwood in the neighbourhood of the house, had not been ill from fever this spring. As there was, in Dr. Clark's opinion, very little question that the neighbourhood could be made healthy, he thought that the Board might now consistently recommend the Government to add another story to the inspector's present quarters. As it was absolutely essential that Inspector Watson should live in immediate proximity to the depots, his quarters should certainly be made to meet his needs.

The estimated cost of adding another story is \$3,000.

Hon. F. H. May minuted—"I am in favour of adding another story."

The PRESIDENT said there had been a great deal said in this matter, and there was a proposal on foot to add another story to the house. That would be an expensive matter, and would result in very little benefit to the house. The better plan would be to add another room to it as it now stood, and another room might be stuck up on top of that.

Dr. CLARK—I move that the Board recommend the Government to add two rooms to the inspector's quarters at Kennedytown, one over the other.

Lieut.-Col. HUGHES and Dr. BELL suggested the advisability of waiting, before spending money on the house, to see that malaria had left the district.

Dr. CLARK—The money must be voted now.

Mr. OSBORNE—We need not spend it.

Mr. MAY—If provision be made in the estimates for next year for the addition, if found desirable, of two rooms, then I would support the proposal.

Mr. BREWIN—That could be included in the motion.

This was done, and the motion, as amended, carried.

PUBLIC LATRINES.

Correspondence relative to the public latrines was laid on the table. It included a document from a Chinaman recommending the use of camphor and laudanum in the treatment of cholera and plague, and also complaining of the offensiveness of Hongkong latrines—an offensiveness only slightly lessened by the use of disinfectants. This document was submitted to His Excellency the Governor, who suggested that it might be sent to Dr. Thomson and to the Sanitary Board, as there was something in the latrine question.

Among other minutes were the following:—

Mr. Brewin—"I believe Mr. Chadwick inspected and reported on the Canton latrines: what were his recommendations?"

Dr. Clark—"Mr. Chadwick recommended the system at present in vogue, until the time came that all the night-soil could be admitted to the sewers. This latter is entirely dependent on the water supply, and is therefore never likely to be accomplished, unless sea-water is made available for the purpose."

NEW LATRINE.

The plan of a latrine in Hing Wan Street was submitted.

The PRESIDENT said the plan had been submitted for the approval of the Board. The latrine was to be public, and situated in Wanchai.

On the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by Dr. BELL, the plan was adopted.

PROPOSED NEW PLAGUE CEMETERY.

Correspondence relative to the opening up of a new plague cemetery was submitted. This included a letter, dated 31st May, from Dr. Bell, Principal Civil Medical Officer, containing remarks on the present epidemic of plague, the treatment of patients—Europeans, Indians, and Japanese—and the means for so doing. Kennedytown Hospital, the letter stated, was hardly large enough when two epidemics, plague and smallpox, had to be combated, and should be extended on the site at present occupied by the matcheds used for Chinese—to the east of the main building. The Tung Wah authorities should build their Infectious Hospital as quickly as possible, or, better still, the Government should build one for Chinese in the neighbourhood, so as to keep the Europeans and Chinese somewhat apart. Some other arrangements should be made for bringing plague bodies other than taking them past Kennedytown Hospital. The

sight to those convalescing of a procession of 20 to 30 coffins daily was a most depressing one. Cremation being out of the question, another site should be arranged for before next year's epidemic. In Dr. Bell's opinion, it was time that a proper brick building was erected for the Chinese staff at the hospital. As to nursing, the hospital staff was very deficient indeed. Two trained wardmasters and two trained sisters were required for Kennedytown Hospital, one each for day and night duty. Skilled English nurses should always be about to see that the subordinate staff are doing their work properly. To make the nursing efficient, Dr. Bell recommended (1) to build quarters as far away as possible, compatible with efficiency, from the hospital, for two wardmasters and two sisters; (2) to get out another wardmaster (one having already been requisitioned for) to do duty especially at the Infectious Hospital and to be available for other duty, including private nursing; (3) to obtain from home two sisters under similar conditions. The sisters would live at the Government Civil Hospital, but would proceed to their quarters at Kennedytown as soon as a case of infectious disease in a female was admitted. The letter concluded:—"I am induced to lay these views before His Excellency, as I am of opinion that plague is now epidemic here, and that every year we will have an epidemic—varying in severity, no doubt, but still an epidemic—until we know more about the etiology of the disease or until we are prepared to take more stringent means at the very outset to trace the cases, and it is very difficult in my opinion to suggest remedies for this latter. We should, therefore, be more fully equipped for the treatment of those European or others who may come under our care."

Attached was a copy of the report of the Chinese Cemeteries Committee, dated 13th June, 1900, having reference to the use of a site at Sandy Bay or on Lamna Island for a plague cemetery.

Dr. CLARK—I think the Board might recommend the Government to plant the cemetery with trees, to keep the cemetery from view. Secondly, I move that the Government be requested to ask the Director of Public Works to construct a new approach path for the conveyance of coffins and dead bodies to the graveyard without going in view of the hospital.

Dr. BELL seconded.

Mr. MAY said he was dead against this plague cemetery, and was of opinion that laziness was the sole cause of Sandy Bay, where the bodies were formerly buried, being given up in favour of the present one at Kennedytown, which was nearer to the hospital. He moved as an amendment that the present plague cemetery at Mount Davis be given up and plague corpses buried in Sandy Bay till a better place was found.

Dr. BELL—Sandy Bay is the only place available for the landing of merchandise.

Mr. OSBORNE seconded the amendment.

The two motions put forward by Dr. Clark were put to the meeting and carried.

The amendment was next put and carried, six voting for and three against.

PROPOSED MORTUARIES AND PLAGUE CEMETERIES AT KOWLOON.

A letter, dated 1st December, 1900, and addressed to the Colonial Secretary, was submitted from the Hon. F. H. May. It recommended the construction of a mortuary at Yaumati or in the vicinity, and another at Kowloon City or vicinity. The establishment of a plague cemetery at Kowloon was also suggested. The principal reason for the recommendation was the fact that at present every dead body has to be towed across the harbour and conveyed to the mortuary or cemetery at West Point.

Papers in connection with the subject were attached.

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. Fung Wa Chuen—"I strongly support the recommendation of the Hon. C.S.P. A mortuary and plague cemetery for Kowloon are indispensable. Although it means more expense to the Government, it will save trouble and inconvenience and annoyance to the public, as occasioned by the present method of dealing with the dead. A properly kept cemetery at Kowloon will be no danger to the inhabitants."

Dr. Bell—"I agree with the M.O.H."

Mr. Osborne—"I am opposed to it. Better confine the plague germs to one locality."

Dr. Clark—"I am most emphatically of the opinion that a plague cemetery should not be opened at Kowloon. This is the first I have heard or seen of this paper, although apparently I was one of the committee appointed to report on the question in December last."

The PRESIDENT intimated that a temporary plague hospital had been constructed at Mong Kok Tsui. With regard to the cemetery, a resolution on the subject had just been passed. He did not know whether it was proposed to open more than one, but he hoped not.

Referring to the PRESIDENT's remark relative to the construction of a temporary plague hospital at Mong Kok Tsui, Dr. BELL said that if the match was meant the President was wrong. The match was intended only for the reception of dead bodies prior to their removal to Kennedytown.

Mr. MAY put forward his motion for the erection of a mortuary at Kowloon or vicinity.

Mr. CLARK, in seconding, said the mortuary would have to be regularly visited by a medical man; he might, in fact, reside there. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. MAY—I beg also to move that plague cemeteries be established in Kowloon.

Dr. CLARK—I won't second that.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN—I second it.

Lieut.-Col. HUGHES—I beg to oppose the opening of any other plague cemeteries in the colony.

On a vote being taken, the motion was lost, four voting for and five against.

APPLICATION REGARDING TREATMENT OF PLAGUE PATIENTS.

An application was read from the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Ltd., asking that the Company's Chinese doctor (Dr. Kwan Kin Leong) be allowed to treat any employees suffering from plague on their own premises in Kowloon in matchsheds isolated from other dwellings and surrounded by a wall and locked entrances. What the Company proposed was to place all sick people in separate matchsheds under observation, and if their sickness developed into plague, to transfer them to another matchshed and leave them there till they either recover or die. The observation and plague matchsheds it was proposed to place on Kowloon Marine Lot No. 9, some 250 feet from the nearest dwellings.

Mr. Fung Wa Chuen minuted—"This should be allowed."

Dr. Clark minuted—"I see no objection to this proposal. I believe that Dr. Kwan is a diplomé of the Hongkong College of Medicine for Chinese."

Mr. OSBORNE explained the scheme, which was to provide for the private treatment of his workmen. The idea was practically that of a private hospital.

Dr. CLARK—I have no objection, providing a case of plague is notified.

Mr. OSBORNE—Of course.

Lieut.-Col. HUGHES—I think, if we allow this, we shall be swamped with other similar applications.

Mr. OSBORNE—There are not so many employers of labour in the colony.

The application met with general approval, and, on the motion of Mr. MAY, seconded by Dr. CLARK, was granted. Dr. Thomson will visit the hospital daily.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.

Reports of the analysis of the public water supplies of the colony for the month of May were submitted. The reports were by Mr. F. Browne, Government Analyst, who examined samples of the Kowloon, Tytam, and Pokfulam services, and found the water in each case to be of excellent quality.

A sample of water from a well situated at No. 14, Des Vaux Road, has been analysed by the Government Analyst and found to be so tainted with impurities as to be unfit for potable purposes, and likely to prove injurious to health. The well will be closed.

PLAGUE AT SWATOW.

A letter was submitted from H.B.M. Consul at Swatow relative to the outbreak of sporadic cases of bubonic plague there and the action of the Shanghai authorities in enforcing quarantine regulations on vessels arriving from Swatow.

Dr. Clark minuted—"Follow suit."

A motion by the PRESIDENT to recommend the Governor in Council to declare Swatow a port infected with plague, and to enforce medical inspection of ships arriving therefrom, was lost, the general opinion being that quarantine would be of no practical use and would prove but a source of annoyance to shippers.

ANALYSIS OF MILK SAMPLES.

Correspondence was submitted relative to the analysis of three samples of fresh milk purchased at 35, Stanley Street (ground floor), 33, Cochrane Street (ground floor), and 70, Stanley Street (ground floor). The report of Mr. F. Browne, Government Analyst, showed the samples to be those of genuine milk.

FORTNIGHTLY LIMEWASHING RETURNS.

The returns for the fortnight ended 10th June showed that out of a total number of 3,436 houses in the Central District, 2,389 had been lime washed. Seven occupiers in the same district were prosecuted, and fines amounting to \$70 imposed.

DEATHS IN MACAO.

The mortality returns from Macao for the week ended 26th May showed a total of 59 deaths.

MORTALITY STATISTICS FOR THE COLONY.

The mortality statistics for the colony for the week ended 25th May showed a total of 49.8 deaths against 36.8 in the previous week and 35.2 in the corresponding week last year.

The returns for the week ended 1st June were 55.3 against 36.4 for the corresponding week of last year.

THE PLAGUE.

Saturday, 8th June.

During the 24 hours ending at noon yesterday there were reported 23 fresh cases of plague (22 Chinese, one other Asiatic), and 19 deaths (all Chinese). The figures for the year are now:—1,092 cases, 1,027 deaths. The number of cases therefore is already in excess of that of 1900, when there were 1,082 cases, with 1,034 deaths.

We reported yesterday that the departure of the steamer *Haichang* had been delayed owing to a case of plague on board. The victim is Mr. Chun Yut, an engineer on the vessel. He was removed to Kennedy Town on Thursday afternoon. The family is well known in the Colony.

Mr. R. D. Vania, broker, 16, Gage Street, who was admitted to the Parsee Club, 39, Elgin Street, on Wednesday afternoon, suffering from the disease, is being treated in a room specially set apart. The expenses are to be defrayed from the Parsee charity fund instituted to meet such cases.

We learn that Mrs. Varcoe, 3, Wild Dell, whose seven-year-old boy was taken ill on Wednesday, has also developed symptoms of plague, and, with her child—who had recovered sufficiently to be moved—was taken to Kennedytown Plague Hospital between eleven and twelve o'clock yesterday forenoon. The tenement houses known as Wild Dell have been disinfected. Altogether there have been four cases of plague there.

Monday.

During the 24 hours ending on the 8th inst. there were reported 25 fresh cases of plague (23 Chinese, one other Asiatic, and one European) and 24 deaths (all Chinese). The European mentioned is Mrs. Varcoe, 3, Wild Dell, who, as we intimated in our issue of Saturday, was removed, with her child, to Kennedy Town Plague Hospital on Friday.

A second lukong has been admitted to Kennedy Town from the Central Police Station suffering from plague. He was admitted to the Government Civil Hospital on the 4th inst., in a high fever, which latterly developed into plague. He was sleeping at the Central Police Station in the bed next to that occupied by the lukong first afflicted with the disease.

We have received a letter from Mr. R. D. Vania, in which he says:—"On the perusal of your paper of the 8th instant, I found in your plague information some remarks regarding the expenses from the Parsee Charity Fund, which if I pass unnoticed will leave a bad impression on the public mind. The Parsee Charity Fund is only for the general use of the Parsee Community and not for individuals, therefore any expenses incurred for my sole benefit will be charged to me and not, as stated, to the Fund." Mr. Vania

desires us to convey his thanks to all who have helped him, as well as to daily enquirers. "Progressing favourably" is his answer to the latter.

Wednesday.

During the 24 hours ending at noon the 11th inst. there were reported 22 fresh cases of plague (19 Chinese, 3 Europeans), with 23 deaths (all Chinese).

Dr. Stedman reported on the 11th inst. that two cases of plague had occurred in Connaught House, Captain and Mrs. Brownhill having developed the symptoms. They were removed to Kennedy Town Hospital in the course of the day. Captain Brownhill, who is very well known in the Colony, is superintending engineer for Messrs. Bradley & Co., and, with Mrs. Brownhill, was leaving for England on Thursday by the German mail on a year's holiday.

A curious case is reported from a local boarding-house, a Miss Besnard, a boarder, being now convalescent from plague, apparently without its being known that she had had the disease. Miss Besnard is a French lady, and teaches that language. She resided in Beaconsfield Arcade until the 17th ult. Dr. Bell, who examined Miss Besnard, is of opinion that she is convalescent from an attack of plague. She had fever for two days, but since then has been going about her ordinary avocations and been out of doors daily, while her health does not appear to have been impaired by the very mild attack from which she seems to have suffered.

Baird, the apprentice engineer at the Cosmopolitan Docks, who was recently removed from the Base Post Office at Scandal Point, where he had stopped for one night, has died from plague.

Thursday.

During the 24 hours ending at noon on the 12th inst. there were reported 26 fresh cases of plague (23 Chinese, 3 other Asiatics), with 20 deaths (all Chinese). The year's figures now are:—1,202 cases, 1,131 deaths.

Two of the non-Chinese cases mentioned in the above returns are Mrs. J. Levey, a Jewess, 26 years of age, residing at 47, Staunton Street, and Fazel Ahmed (21), an Indian policeman at Yaumati Station.

Captain and Mrs. Brownhill are reported to be already showing signs of betterment.

Mrs. D'Agostini and Mrs. Gonzalves, both of whom were taken from Beaconsfield Arcade, were discharged from Kennedy Town Plague Hospital yesterday.

The other European patients continue to make satisfactory progress.

Friday.

During the 24 hours ending at noon on the 13th inst. there were reported 21 fresh cases of plague (20 Chinese, one other Asiatic), with 21 deaths (all Chinese).

Dr. Thomson reported on the 13th inst. that, with the exception of Mrs. Brownhill, all the European patients in Kennedytown Hospital were getting on well. Mrs. Brownhill, though not in a serious condition, was not progressing quite so favourably as her husband.

Saturday.

During the past 24 hours there were reported 24 fresh cases of plague (22 Chinese, one other Asiatic, one European), and 25 deaths (24 Chinese, and one other Asiatic).

A case of plague was reported at midnight on Thursday from No. 7, Ezra Lane. The patient is a Portuguese girl, 17 years of age, named Cecilia Almaro. She was then in a comatose condition, and has since remained so. There is no chance of her recovering, it is stated.

Mrs. Anna Krater, of the "Rose, Shamrock and Thistle Hotel," 306, Queen's Road Central, was admitted to Kennedy Town Hospital yesterday morning suffering from plague.

An Indian camp-follower from Kowloon died yesterday morning from plague. Satisfactory progress is being made by the other Indians and Portuguese.

As we went to press, we learnt that two fresh European cases had been notified, the victims being Mrs. Herbst and a daughter, residing at 14, Queen's Road Central; and we also deeply regret to state that Mr. Brownhill succumbed to the disease early on Friday night.

The other European patients are doing well.

PROPOSED NAVAL YARD TRANSFER.

THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT.

It has been talked about privately and in official circles for some time now that our Naval Yard authorities have been contemplating the removal of the Yard from its present site in Hongkong to more commodious quarters on the Kowloon side of our possession in this part of the world. Authentic details of the proposed change are not yet made public, but we have reason to believe that Mr. J. L. Houston, the manager here for Messrs. Punchard, Lowther and Co., on his visit to England, will interview the authorities at the Admiralty with regard to this matter. We understand that the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., is connected with the scheme, in which case there can be little doubt that if the Naval authorities actually vacate the frontage now possessed by them on the Praya, there will be an addition to the remarkable reclamation scheme, the details of which have now been for some time before our readers. By such a development the scheme promises to do even more for the Colony than we have hitherto hoped. The advantages to be gained by the Naval authorities, on the other hand, lie mainly in the greater amount of space which will be put at their disposal at Kowloon than they have at present for the Yard, with its workshops and dock. The site which is indicated by report as that which is to be occupied is at Tsimshatsui Bay; but, as we have stated above, the details of the plan are not yet fully known. As our readers will see, if the scheme is carried out its effect on the development of the colony, and particularly on the city of Victoria, cannot fail to be enormous.

NEW VOLUNTEER SHOOTING RANGE.

OPENED BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR.

The new Volunteer Shooting Range at Causeway Bay was opened on the 8th inst. by H.E. the Governor. The weather was hot, and made the ascent to the butts very trying. The path, narrow and very steep in places, winds erratically up the hillside, and to the perspiring, panting traveller appears to drag itself out to the farthest possible limit in leading the way to the firing points. Shelters have been erected at each of these butts, and prove welcome breaks in the climb to the top. H.E. the Governor was to have arrived at one o'clock to perform the opening ceremony, but at the last moment Captain Pritchard, Adjutant of the Volunteer Corps, received a note that he could not possibly reach the range before, at the earliest, a quarter past one. Advantage was taken of the period of waiting to complete all preliminaries connected with the competition for the Governor's Shield. It was found that one or minor alterations would have to be made in the competing list as originally drawn up, the Band and "E" Company of the Engineers being short of the number stipulated for each team. This shortage was unfortunate, but it was not so much the fault of the absentees as of the hour at which the proceedings were fixed to start.

Soon after half past one, H. E. the Governor, accompanied by Colonel Sir John Carrington, C.M.G. (Commandant of the Volunteer Corps), and Lieutenant Blake, A.D.C., arrived on foot, the volunteers present standing at attention as the party approached.

Placing himself at their head, Colonel Sir JOHN CARRINGTON, addressing the Governor (who is the Hon. Colonel of the Corps), said—Your Excellency, on behalf of the Volunteer Corps, I thank you very cordially for your generosity in providing a good range for the Corps, and hope that the use they make of it will justify the trouble you have taken in connection with the range. I now beg your Excellency to declare it open.

HIS EXCELLENCY said—Colonel Sir John Carrington and officers and men of the Volunteer Corps, I am very glad indeed to find that the range is to be opened at last; there has been great delay about it. However, now that I have come up, I must say there is one advantage that appears to exist here, and that is—you fire at this range strictly

under service conditions. I think you will find at first that the journey up will prove tiring and perhaps alter your scoring, but after you have been working at the range for two months the whole Corps, I think, will find itself as fit as fiddles and keen as mustard. I hope all of you will make constant and good use of the range, for, as I think I have said more than once, the Hongkong Volunteers may prove a most valuable addition to the forces of the Colony, but your value will be strictly proportionate to the goodness of your shooting, and you must never lose sight of that. I think we have had object-lessons in other lands of the great need of always being prepared and ready to act our parts as men. I am glad indeed to have the opportunity to open the range, and I hope that the effects of the walk-up will not interfere with the sighting of the rifle. (Laughter and applause.)

A rifle was then handed to His Excellency, who took it with the remark—"Has he got any tricks?" Knelling down, the Governor took aim at the 200 yards' target and fired. All present eagerly watched for the result of the shot, which His Excellency characterised by one word—"Mut." A shout of laughter went up when the marker, after the lapse of a few seconds, signalled a bull's eye. The Governor created further amusement by the comment—"The Victorian Order ought to be given to that marker."

Shooting for the Governor's Shield, which was on view at the firing points, then commenced. The following is a summary of the scores:—

Field Battery.—200 yards, 165; 400 yards, 221; 500 yards, 206; total, 592.

"A" Machine Gun Co.—200 yards, 154; 400 yards, 182; 500 yards, 130; total, 466.

"B" Machine Gun Co.—200 yards, 151; 400 yards, 211; 500 yards, 155; total, 507.

"C" Machine Gun Co.—200 yards, 124; 400 yards, 182; 500 yards, 149; total, 455.

"D" Infantry Co.—200 yards, 169; 400 yards, 235; 500 yards, 216; total, 620.

THE NEW N.Y.K. LINE FROM HONGKONG TO SEATTLE.

A VISIT TO THE "KAGA MARU."

For some time past the Nippon Yusen Kaisha have had a monthly line of steamers running between Hongkong and Seattle, and our readers will have noticed from recent advertisements that this enterprising company has decided to establish a fortnightly line of steamers between Hongkong and Seattle. This is of great importance to Hongkong, inasmuch as it establishes another quick trans-Pacific route that cannot fail to prove of incalculable benefit to this Colony and to the American ports. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha, being the premier shipping company of Japan, has arranged the service with that thoroughness and effectiveness for which this company is so well noted. The service will be maintained by a fleet of six magnificent steamers of over 6,000 tons each, able to transport a vast amount of freight, and possessing splendid accommodation for passengers. These steamers, which will take eleven weeks on the round trip, will enable fortnightly sailings to be maintained. The first steamer to inaugurate the new line is the *Kaga Maru*, an imposing specimen of marine architecture, and a striking representation of Japan's extraordinary progress in shipbuilding, for the vessel was built and launched at Nagasaki and is now on her maiden voyage. The *Kaga Maru* was anchored in the harbour for a few days, having left yesterday afternoon; and on Sunday a representative of this paper was enabled through the courtesy of the local manager of the company, to visit her. The ship was well worth a visit, and looked very stately when calmly riding at anchor. Her size was best indicated by comparison with the smaller vessels in her vicinity. She was in a beautiful condition, for with the exception of a trial run from Nagasaki to Yokohama and from thence to Hongkong she had never made a trip and was quite new, everything on board being spick and span. She is commanded by that popular and able veteran Captain Eckstrand, with Mr. H. H. Coe as chief officer, and Mr. Muller, as second officer. The chief engineer is Mr. S. Moore, with Mr. Thompson as second engineer—the junior

officers and engineers being Japanese, with a Japanese crew. The crew all told numbers 123.

The *Kaga Maru* is a steel twin-screw steamer of 6,800 tons, gross tonnage, giving a registered net tonnage of 3,900. She was built by the Mitsu-Bishi Dockyard and Engine Works, Nagasaki. She has a complete cellular double bottom excluded from tonnage, a straight stem, two masts, one funnel, two decks, viz., upper and between-decks, and poop bridge and fore-castle, with a shade-deck over bridge. Her principal dimensions are:—Length between perpendiculars, 445 feet; breadth moulded, 49 feet 2 inches; depth moulded, 33 feet 6 inches; length of poop, 64 feet; length of bridge deck, about 120 feet; length of fore-castle deck over stern, 55 feet; between deck height beam to beam, 8 feet. The hull and machinery were constructed in accordance with Teishinsho regulations in conversant with the Japanese Shipbuilding and Navigation Encouragement Acts and under Lloyd's special survey for class 100 A 1 M.C. In all departments the requirements of Lloyds and the Board of Trade have been fully observed. The vessel has two complete steel decks, the upper deck being sheathed with teak from fore-castle to poop. A first-class dining saloon is fitted under the bridge in the between-decks, and there are rooms for thirty-two first-class passengers, which are fitted on top of the bridge deck in steel houses. The chart-room, wheel-house and captain's cabin are of teak on top of the shade-deck, with a very roomy navigating bridge carried from side to side of the ship at fore part of bridge-deck. There are seven water-tight steel bulkheads. The arrangements for coaling are perfect, whether from railway trucks overhead or from boats alongside. There are five cargo hatchways on the upper deck, with similar hatchways 'tween decks. The two lower masts are also stiffened to lift heavy weights, and steel derrick posts are provided at those hatchways which cannot be worked from the masts; and there are ten powerful cargo-derricks, each capable of lifting dead weights of six tons. The ventilators are numerous, and of the latest approved pattern, and there are several capacious water-tanks and one sanitary tank. The windlass is Napier's patent steam capstan, with the latest improvements, and the steam steering gear is Caldwell & Co's patent, and the rod, not the chain, proceeds along the bridge deck, being covered in entirely, and is carried down and below the main deck. Speaking-tubes from the bridge allow communication to any part of the ship. Hall's refrigerating machinery is provided, with a total capacity of 2,000 cubic feet, and making 3 cwt. of ice daily. The vessel is fitted with steel bilge-keels on each side for a length of 210 ft. amidships. There are twelve capacious boats, four being steel and four being wooden life-boats, and all the customary appliances for life saving are provided. The ship is lighted throughout with electric light with Martin & Co's system. The engines are of the latest design and are very powerful, for on her trial trip the *Kaga Maru* made 15½ knots, and she will steam about 14 knots under ordinary pressure.

The ship is intended for freight and passenger traffic. Yesterday she took away about 2,000 tons of cargo, which is a fair beginning. She has accommodation for 36 first-class passengers, no second-class passengers being carried. The cabins are all, with the exception of two, on the upper deck, and are very spacious and extremely well fitted up. There are two berths and one sofa with spring mattresses in each cabin, also an excellent folding washstand with looking-glass, and a splendid mahogany writing-desk with capacious drawers. In addition there are sundry odds and ends contributing much to the comfort of the passenger, among these being a canvas wall receptacle for brushes, etc. The walls of the whole of the cabins, dining-saloon, smoking-saloon and music-room are of light Japanese maple, with panels of the same wood grained by a peculiar process. We have seldom seen anything more charming in the way of panelling than this Japanese maple, and it is quite a relief to the usual orthodox white interiors of cabins and saloons. The wood has only recently been used for this purpose, and is procured from the Hokaido portion of Japan. To correspond with the

maple, all the metal fittings are electro-plated. The dining-saloon is an extremely pretty compartment, but convenience has not been sacrificed to effect. The central columns supporting the roof are also of carved maple, and here and there polished mahogany appears in relief. The saloon opens on to a staircase, which is tastefully fitted up in maple, the stairway being a combination winding one, having an entrance on each side with double handrails supported by electro-plated brackets. At the top of the stairway is a social hall, with a small library and a cottage piano, with music folios. The floors of all the cabins and saloons are covered with Brussels carpets of a pretty blue design. At the end of the spacious passenger promenade deck is a large smoking-room, with chairs and tables and every convenience for the smoker's comfort. The indispensable bar-room is attached. The galleys are commodious and fitted with all modern appliances, and under the control of a good chef, will maintain this company's reputation for good catering. The health of the passengers is not neglected, for on the aft poop deck is a small hospital fitted with eight berths, which is under the charge of a qualified Japanese surgeon. In fact, everything tending to the comfort, enjoyment and amusement of the passenger seems to have been provided, and under the command of capable officers the intending voyager will be able to make the passage between here and north-western America with speed, safety and absolute comfort. The N.Y.K. are to be heartily congratulated on their enterprise in providing such an excellent service of such splendid ships.

I.M.C. DUES AND DUTIES : JANUARY—MARCH.

The Report of Dues and Duties for the Chinese treaty ports in the first quarter of 1901, just published by the Imperial Maritime Customs, shows some interesting figures. Compared with the same quarter in 1900, the total collection gives a decrease of Hk. Tls. 1,033,695—dropping from Hk. Tls. 5,395,332 to Hk. Tls. 4,361,337. The ports which improved on last year's figures were:—Newchwang, Chefoo, Kiaochau, Chungking, Ichang, Shasi, Yochow, Nanking, Chinkiang, Soochow, Ningpo, Santu, Wuchow, Samshui, Kongmoon, Kunchuk, Canton, and Pakhoi. Decreases were shown by Tientsin, Hankow, Kiukiang, Wuhu, Shanghai, Hangchow, Wenchow, Foochow, Amoy, Swatow, and Kiangchow.

Taking first the increases, Newchwang registered over Hk. Tls. 3,787 against the blank entry of the same quarter last year. Chefoo advanced from Hk. Tls. 108,543 to Hk. Tls. 147,582, Chungking from Hk. Tls. 93,681 to Hk. Tls. 141,010, Ichang from Hk. Tls. 154,323 to Hk. Tls. 271,832, Nanking from Hk. Tls. 35,098 to Hk. Tls. 46,271, Chinkiang from Hk. Tls. 228,560 to Hk. Tls. 235,273. The West River ports all made slight advances, Canton increased from Hk. Tls. 465,052 to Hk. Tls. 501,227, and Pakhoi from Hk. Tls. 26,640 to Hk. Tls. 39,387.

The main decreases were:—Tientsin, from Hk. Tls. 119,788 to Hk. Tls. 37,154; Hankow, from Hk. Tls. 320,523 to Hk. Tls. 254,749; Wuhu, from Hk. Tls. 299,582 to Hk. Tls. 200,382; Shanghai, from Hk. Tls. 2,433,382 to Hk. Tls. 2,273,759; Soochow, from Hk. Tls. 1,262,357 to Hk. Tls. 174,683; Amoy, from Hk. Tls. 147,996 to Hk. Tls. 146,788; Swatow, from Hk. Tls. 403,817 to Hk. Tls. 380,361.

A correspondent writes to a Northern contemporary from Peking that four thousand of the troops of Yuan Shi-kai are on their way from Shantung to Peking. They will maintain order on the withdrawal of the foreign troops. This measure is no doubt the result of fears entertained in official quarters that Boxer bandits will take advantage of the retirement of the French, German, British and other troops. The news from Paoing is not reassuring. The native Roman Catholics are still slain by vindictive Boxers. Additions are being made to the 6,000 Romanists who in Bishop Favier's vicariat have lost their lives during the crisis.

PAKHOI.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.]

Pakhoi, 4th June.

A MISSIONARY TROUBLE.

Months ago several members of the German Church Mission established themselves at Limchow, where they bought a house and turned it into a chapel. On the 24th May, the natives destroyed this chapel (whether by fire or by pulling it down is not stated). As the result the German cruiser *Jaguar* arrived in the harbour on the 2nd June for the purpose of demanding satisfaction. It was expected that the Limchowfu would arrive on the 3rd at Pakhoi to meet the commander of the cruiser. Besides full satisfaction, the Germans demand a few thousand dollars indemnity and two hundred and fifty dollars per day for the cruiser during her stay there. If the Limchowfu did not come to Pakhoi, the German commander was to proceed to Limchow, escorted by his men, for the purpose of making a demonstration.

On the afternoon of the 3rd instant, the Limchowfu and Hop Ho Yuen (Prefect and Sub-Prefect) arrived at Pakhoi.

OTHER POWERS WATCHING.

On the morning of the 4th instant the *Kersaint* arrived in harbour, supposedly to watch the movements of the Germans. A British gunboat is expected to arrive at any moment.

Later.

Whilst I write these lines the Germans have just landed fifty marines and officers. This was on the 4th inst. The men were marched on to the Yamen of the Chi Cheong Szi (civil magistrate).

The plague is making severe havoc among the inhabitants; the heat is intolerable.

FOOCHOW.

The following items are from the *Foochow Echo* of the 1st inst.:—

Business in the tea market has been confined so far to boxes of Pakling and Flowery Pekoe. Congous are somewhat late in arriving and musters will not be shown until next week. The *Glenshiel* is to be the first steamer to load for London, but the date of her sailing will not be fixed until the opening of the market.

The s.s. *Wineland* left Foochow on the 26th ulto. bound direct for Madagascar with a batch of coolies engaged by Mr. Francis Vetch for General Gallieni, Governor General of that French Colony. The men were very pleased with all that was done for them, and not at all afraid at the prospect of so long a voyage. The *Wineland* is due at Tamatave in the beginning of July.

Last Tuesday the Viceroy and Tartar General entertained the Foreign Consuls, the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Customs, at the house of the Foreign Board, at mid day. The high Provincial authorities were present, as well as the Amoy Taotai and the U.S. Consul at Amoy.

The 30th May ("Memorial Day") was observed at this port by a ceremony under the direction of the U. S. Consul, in which all Americans in port participated. They first visited the grave of Rev. N. J. Plumb in the American mission cemetery, he having served in the army during the civil war. The grave was covered with flowers by loving hands, the principle offering being a floral American flag. From there the children, carrying a large American flag, led the procession to the Foreign cemetery, where the graves of six sailors of the American navy were decorated. Services were then held in the chapel; Rev. Mr. Wilcox offered prayer. Rev. Mr. Beard delivered a very eloquent address and national hymns were sung by the company.

The Closing Exercises of the Foochow Graded School were held in the chapel of the W.F.M.S. Seminary at Tai-Main on Friday morning at ten o'clock.

The striking off of the large stock of rupees ordered by Government is now nearly complete at the Bombay and Calcutta Mints, and the minting of Hongkong dollars, it is stated, will be resumed at the usual rate. No further steps are being taken at present for commencing the coinage of sovereigns in India.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the *P. & T. Times* of the 1st inst.:—

It is reported that three papers are likely to be started in Peking by Chinese.

A rumour has it that the Heir Apparent has already reached Honan, but it is not authenticated.

The section of Peking formerly occupied by the U. S. troops has been added to the British section.

Bad characters are collecting round Tientsin waiting for the Chinese to resume control.

General Ma Yu-kuan, who was of the leaders in the attack on Tientsin last year, is waiting on the Chihli border for the foreign troops to go.

A Russian company has been formed to exploit the natural resources of Mongolia, and an investigating expedition will shortly be sent to prospect.

The portion of the Palace which was under the protection of the Americans and Japanese has been handed back to the Chinese, and it is estimated that the necessary repairs will take about two months.

It has been found that several men have been engaged manufacturing rifles at the village of Yangchiahuang on the Taku Road, and it was the testing of these rifles which drew upon the village the foreign detachment who believed it to be a preconcerted signal that their assistance was required for the suppression of brigands.

An arrangement was recently made by the troops stationed near Taichaku that the villagers around were to fire a rifle as a signal if they were attacked by brigands, so that the foreign troops might hasten to their assistance. The other day a shot was fired by accident and the guard turned out. The villagers thought the foreign soldiers were brigands and fired on them, and shots were exchanged on both sides with one or two casualties. The village was afterwards searched and about thirty rifles found which were confiscated, and five villagers were arrested.

A correspondent writes to our contemporary: "There has lately been a great deal of discussion as to the advisability of the Chinese city here remaining under the Provisional Government. There are people who say that Chinese Taotais would govern the city better than the present rulers. Those who say so are mostly people who have come here after the war. Tientsin city should in my individual opinion remain under foreign Government for several years. A big city on the lines of communication between the capital and the sea would form a source of great danger if under Chinese authority, as it would become the rendezvous of evil-doers of any shade and colour. It was only the day before yesterday that an armed band of robbers broke into a foreign firm's compound in the city, tortured some of the people there, and stole 4,000 taels. Again, it was from the walls of the Tientsin city that we were bombarded, it was the very nest of Boxers and other rascals, and it is stated by all sensible Chinese that if the Provisional Government withdraws, affairs will soon again become tumultuous. As it is, Tientsin is now kept under strict control, and important works are being carried out which in the course of time will make it a model city if allowed to go on."

The following Peking notes from the native papers are translated in the *Shanghai Mercury*:—The proposed railway from the Tung Pien Gate to Tungchow has been stopped by the government.—The gentry and officials are in a funk over the threatening aspect of affairs, following the evacuation by the Allies and have urged Li Hung-chang to hurry up Yuan Shi-kai's men to the rescue.—The Germans, fearing that the prisons of the Board of Punishments were in a filthy condition which might breed plague, visited the prisons and consulted with the warden as to the best means of cleansing.—Since the reopening of the railway many of the officials, taking advantage of the fact that the Treaty was not yet concluded and no date assigned for the return of the Court, secretly left the city. Hence the various Yamens became gradually short of men, so that the suspicions of the heads of departments were aroused. It is said that the Yamens have devised a plan of better supervision.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE PLAGUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Another Parsee has fallen a victim to the plague. Mr. Vania, who lives in Gage Street, was removed on Wednesday, not to the Plague Hospital, nor was he isolated in his house, but to the Parsee Club in Elgin Street. This course has been adopted probably because the leaders of the Parsee community have at last awakened to a sense of the duty which they owe to their co-religionists. But I would question, Mr. Editor, whether this is fair to the numerous families living in the vicinity of the Parsee Club. Lower Elgin Street is not particularly wide and is much frequented, and the houses there are all three stories high and pretty crowded, but so far it has been free from plague, which is highly gratifying; now a case which occurred in Gage Street is taken up there, for what reason I am at a loss to know. Is this not very unfair to all those living in Elgin Street?

Mr. Collins was not removed to Kennedy Town Plague Hospital, but he was isolated in his own house. Why, I question, was Mr. Vania not treated alike, instead of being removed to another street, which perhaps is just as crowded as where he was living at? The Parsee Club is also a church, but, as a resident in the vicinity of Elgin Street, I sincerely hope that the leaders of that community are not going to make it also a hospital for infectious and contagious diseases.—Yours, etc.,

ELGIN STREET.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

8th June.

SIR,—I regret very much to notice in your yesterday's issue that Mr. R. D. Vania, a Parsee broker has contracted plague and was removed from his residence in Gage Street to the Parsee Club in Elgin Street for treatment, and I sincerely hope he will have a speedy recovery; but I, for one cannot allow this sort of thing to pass without saying a few words against this unfairness.

I quite agree with the Parsee community that they should have their own plague hospital, attended by their own doctor and nurse, for they can well afford to do so, but surely Elgin Street is not a site for making a plague hospital. It is reasonable that Mr. Vania should wish to be treated by his own doctor and attended by his own people, but why did Mr. Vania remain in his own house and request the other not inmates of the house to shift to another place; surely it is easy enough for them to do so. Of course they would have to be put up to some inconveniences, but what are these when compared with the scare, uneasiness and discomfort that is caused to the people residing in Elgin Street in having a plague case so near to them?

The Sanitary Board surely ought not to allow the removing of a plague patient to a Club, situated in a street so thickly populated, and I hope this nuisance will not be repeated again.

Thanking you for the insertion of this letter, and enclosing my card,—Yours, etc.,

AN ELGINITE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

9th June.

SIR,—No wonder so many Chinese have been frightened away! What else can be the result of such behaviour on the part of the emissaries of our Sanitary Board as in the following instances?

On Friday last a Chinaman carrying some fish was quietly walking along in the neighbourhood of the Hongkong Telegraph office, when he was hailed by a European dressed in white. The Chinaman did not understand what he said; and for his ignorance "John" paid pretty dearly, for the agent of the law (if he was one) gave him a nice treat with his stick. Another European looking out from a window close by and observing the occurrence shouted out for the man to stop his tyrannical treatment of poor frightened "John." "What has that got

to do with you? I am a doctor," replied the dignitary, and he made the man remove the little bit of plaster on his neck and put out his tongue, no doubt to see if he was carrying plague about. After humbugging the man to his satisfaction, he repeated the treat, and the other European again interfered. This time the reply was that if he would not hold his tongue, a summons would be taken out against him. "John" was then trotted away, goodness knows where—to the Central Palace or the Kennedy Castle.

Another instance is this:—A house-cleansing party was returning to town, and when passing by the Man Cheung Yuan firm, Bonham Strand West, the "Tommies" forming the party saw a man lying down in a couch in the hall of the firm. The man was perfectly well, though he looked somewhat pale. The "Tommies" went in, unceremoniously pulling him out and subjecting him to a careful examination. Still not satisfied, they made the man strip his clothing and felt his person all over. No excuse might have been found to send the frightened fellow on a pleasure trip to Kennedy Castle, for on leaving the premises the party left instructions with the firm that the man should be kept in the place, as they meant to call again the next morning for some more fun. But on the following morning the "Tommies" failed to turn up and the man thanked his stars that, even did they call again, he was far away and safe from further molestation.—Yours, etc.,

DISGUSTED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

11th June.

SIR,—Since the plague epidemic in 1894, this Colony has unfortunately been annually visited by this dire disease. Now that we have had seven years of bitter experience, it is to be hoped that the Sanitary Board, or the powers that be, will endeavour to discontinue such measures as have been proved useless, or have seemed to be a failure, and devote their attention to improvements which would most likely prevent the recrudescence of the plague. I therefore humbly submit, *pro bono publico*, the following suggestions, viz:—

(a) That the drains should be thoroughly cleansed and flushed by sea-water regularly and as often as possible.

(b) That whenever it is admissible, plague patients should be allowed to be treated in their own houses, nursed by two or three of their relatives only, whilst the rest of the family should quit the house. By this means, it would remove from the unfortunate patient's mind the idea that he is going to die when taken to the Kennedy Town Hospital, and the percentage of recoveries would undoubtedly be greater, to say nothing of the general objection to the removal of the patient from one end of the town to the other, in some cases under most trying circumstances.

(c) That no matter whether the Colony is free from plague or not, all houses in the city should be scrupulously cleansed once in every month by their occupants, to the satisfaction of a competent officer of the Sanitary Board.

Great importance is being attached to fumigation and disinfection, on the theory that once a house has been thoroughly fumigated and disinfected, no more cases of plague will occur thereat. Then by all means let every house be fumigated and disinfected. But it appears to be more than doubtful that this process serves any useful purpose, as it has been fully demonstrated that cases have happened in houses which have been disinfected only a few days previously. Thanking you in anticipation for the insertion of this letter.—Yours, etc.,

LO CHEUNGSHIU.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

14th June.

SIR,—I have very considerable sympathy with Mr. Osborne's first motion at the Sanitary Board, because it was an honest endeavour to work in with the Chinese, under proper precautions, for the better regulation of plague cases. At present with seven years' experience of plague we are no further forward than in 1894, and the Government still imagine that this colony is as impecunious as Jamaica.

Money ought to be spent freely and judiciously. There should be a plague hospital at Kowloon, and one on the hillside above Wanchai, and separate doctors and staff engaged for each.

Dr. Bell stated that the "amount of harm done by carrying patients through the streets was practically non-existent, or at least nothing compared to the benefits derived from treatment in the hospital"; but is this plausible statement a fact? One of our local doctors informed me that one patient whose temperature was 100 degrees when put into the ambulance was 104½ when taken out of it; from which think it is very reasonable to draw the inference that a two or three mile ride in an ambulance is injurious, and that the greater the distance the greater the danger to the patient, and that they should not be compelled to travel so far, as a Wanchai or East Point patient has to do at present.

If the plague continues year after year, the effect on the trade of this colony will be most pernicious, and no short-sighted policy or official cheese-paring should prevent everything being done which might or ought to be done. The departure of 70,000 inhabitants is a serious dislocation to the trade of the colony—it is not so much the coolies who are leaving, but the trading classes and their employees.

Besides having three plague hospitals, we ought to have a considerable addition of scientific and trained doctors added to the medical staff of this colony, and they should be well paid—not underpaid as they are at present. Good pay is required to attract good men—it is penny-wise and pound-foolish to be penurious in fighting death and disease.—Yours, etc.,

G. W. F. P.

THE PUBLIC GARDENS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"

7th June.

SIR,—In reference to the correspondence on the above subject published in the *China Mail* of the 5th inst., I concur with the writer in so much as that the nuisance complained of should be suppressed. But for him to suggest that the Chinese community should establish, at their own cost, a garden for themselves, as they are so fond of such a resort, it is preposterous. He might have paid for the gardens, or the gardens might have been built extensively for the benefit of his family, otherwise he would not have put forward such a foolish suggestion. Need he be reminded that the gardens are for the public, and the public of Hongkong includes the Chinese?

Whether educated or uneducated, a Chinaman has as much right to go there as himself. I am afraid, as long as he remains in Hongkong, his son and daughter, no matter when they go, cannot avoid the risk of contamination by the Chinese.

Thanking you for the insertion of this, and enclosing my card.—Yours, etc.,

A FRIEND OF THE CHINESE.

MISSIONARIES IN ANHWEI AND KIANGSU.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

9th June.

SIR,—It was stated in a note of your Wednesday's issue, that a number of missionaries were returning to Anhwei and Kiangsu, which would seem to imply that all or many of them had been away. Such, however, is not the case, as far as Roman Catholic missionaries are concerned. It is known that the old Viceroy of Nanking managed to keep pretty good order in the provinces under him, during last year's trouble, and there was no need for the missionaries to leave their posts, though, of course, for married missionaries, the simplest common-sense must have suggested taking their families to places of absolute security, rather than expose them to even the remote danger of the sad fate which overtook so many women and children in the northern provinces.

It is also stated in the note just referred to, that the Roman Catholic mission is at Wu-ho-hien in the north-east of Anhwei. This is also a misleading statement, as it ignores and seems to exclude the well-known Roman Catholic missionary establishments at Wuhu, Anking, Ningkwo, Yuchow in the extreme north-west,

and many other places. Altogether there are forty foreign Catholic missionaries in the province of Anhwei, and six native priests. The Catholic missions of the two provinces of Kiangsu and Anhwei are served by the members of the same missionary body, the French Jesuits, who have their headquarters at Siccawei, near Shanghai. There are in all a hundred and thirty Jesuit priests in the mission, about twenty Chinese in the number, and also twenty-two other native priests, with a number of students and lay-brothers, both foreign and native. They count upwards of 120,000 Christians, and some twenty thousand catechumens—Yours, etc.,

READER.

[We are glad to publish our correspondent's corrections. Our authorities for the statements referred to were the Shanghai papers.—ED., D.P.]

CHANGE DOINGS.

The Morrow of May Settlement, Hongkong, 1901.

The Shanghai share-market having been our prop for some time, it is natural that any reaction there would affect us here. When, therefore, orders were received to sell one or two stocks, which that market had bought up largely, we felt the pinch somewhat. It is not improbable that the temporary panic in Wall Street caused northern operators to face about and slacken the fast and furious pace at which things up there had been going. This lull must be taken as a blessing in disguise, as, by checking the upward movement from being overdone, it allows prices to adjust themselves on a sound basis. Owing, therefore, to this and other natural market causes, a rather weak tone prevailed here, particularly about the middle of the month, when rates touched their lowest point. The market, however, showed steady throughout, although it was inevitable that some realisations were bound to go on the wrong side, having been previously contracted at fancy rates, but no shares went a-begging, while towards the end of the month a general recovery took place.

Two new flotations—both Manila ventures—were successfully launched on the market and fully subscribed. The total capital is two million dollars, and judging by the eagerness displayed in the application for shares, both companies command confidence. They are already quoted at a premium. A pleasing feature in this connection is that the diversion of so much capital out of the Colony was not followed by stringency in the money-market, a proof that we have plenty of funds seeking investment, as I mentioned some time ago.

Banks, after touching 392 per cent. cash, fell back twenty points, having been done as low as 372½, from which they again advanced, closing, at time of writing, at 383 per cent., this being the same rate at which they closed last month. A fairly large time business has also been done, mostly for August, the prices paid starting from 390 per cent. and up to 397½ per cent., and for September from 397 per cent. to 401 per cent. A rumour has been gaining ground that the next dividend is going to be £2. Whether this be so or not it is of course impossible to say, but there can be no doubt that the forthcoming report will be as good as any of its predecessors, to which shareholders have come to look forward as a certainty. A great opportunity is also in store for the big institution, when matters up north are finally settled, and trade resumes its even tenour. There seems every prospect of a speedy settlement, and, so far as the Bank is concerned, the master-mind directing its destinies will undoubtedly take full advantage of the situation at the proper moment.

Docks.—Those who anticipated a further advance in this stock have not been disappointed. Holders of this scrip must have a tremendous amount of confidence in the stability and earning power of the concern, for, in spite of a further rise of \$25 per share—the rate is now \$327½ cash—they seem little inclined to part. It has been reported, on good authority, that the best record of the company is even now broken; it is no wonder, therefore, that shares are so scarce. Forward transactions have been booked, for August, from \$325 to \$337½; for

September, from \$330 to \$342½; and for October, at \$345.

Shipping.—This class of security seems to be coming into greater favour than hitherto, the whole list under this head having been dealt in during the past month. Indos have, as usual, commanded most attention. They were in great request for the Shanghai market, for which they were taken up at advancing rates, the highest paid being \$126 cash. Towards the Settlement they quieted down, operators preferring to play a waiting game until the dividend became known. Consequently, hardly any business was done in the interval, but the market remained steady. The figures have now been published in the local Press, from which it will be seen the bulls have scored. They are truly remarkable figures, being double those of the previous years. As a result there was a jump of ten points, the rate now closing at \$145, firm. Steamboats have latterly come in for a strong enquiry, and several lots changed hands between \$34 and \$35. A further improvement has taken place in Douglasses, shares being now in strong demand at \$54. This company has had a profitable year, and it is expected a dividend is assured. China and Manilas have been placed on the market at declining rates, the lowest being \$62 for old, and \$52 for new shares. On the basis of the last dividend paid, viz., \$5, these shares appear to be absurdly cheap.

China Sugars.—Latterly, an enquiry has set in for these shares, which have been booked up to \$137 cash. It is stated that the company is doing well, and there is no reason to doubt the statement.

Kowloon Wharves.—There has been more animation in these shares in the past month, which enabled sellers to obtain better terms. An advance of four points, from \$101 to \$105, has to be noted.

Hongkong Lands.—There shares are the mystery of the market; they rise and fall within a five-point circle, and seem unable to maintain any stability. The forthcoming settlement will perhaps clear the atmosphere for an advance. At present they are weak at \$200.

Cements.—The boom, caused by heavy purchasing on the part of the northern market, was not maintained for long, and the rate rapidly dropped from \$21 to \$19. After remaining weak at the latter figure for a time, they are now again in request, there being strong buyers at \$19.

Mining.—Under this head, the Raub collapse has set everybody thinking. This drop, coming as suddenly as it was unexpected, has taken the breath from the market. It seems a pity that, out of so many mines started in Hongkong, which have proved failures, the only one, on which high hopes had been built, should also prove disappointing. However, there are still expectations that matters will right themselves. It may be some consolation to know that not many shares are held by Hongkong people. Other mines are hardly changed.

ESA.

HONGKONG COTTON SPINNING, WEAVING AND DYEING COMPANY, LTD.

The following is the report for presentation to shareholders at the fourth ordinary meeting to be held at the office of the General Managers, on Thursday, 27th June, at 4 p.m.:

The General Managers beg to submit a statement of accounts covering the period from 16th August, 1900, to 31st May, 1901. The loss on working is \$43,015.22 and the balance at debit of profit and loss account, inclusive of \$136,949.65 for interest, is on the latter date \$250,134.66.

The General Managers regret this unfortunate result, which is mainly attributable to the heavy charge for interest, abnormally high price of cotton during the greater period since the mill started, and to the initial difficulties experienced in establishing the industry.

Having regard to the present financial position of the Company, the Consulting Committee and General Managers closed the mill on 3rd April last, and have come to the conclusion that it is impossible to resume work under past conditions with prospect of success. The

only alternative to liquidation is a scheme of reconstruction, a statement in connection with which is put before shareholders by private circular, and the necessary resolutions will be proposed at an extraordinary meeting of shareholders of which notice has already been given.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

The Honourable R. M. Gray retired on leaving the Colony, and the committee now consists of the Honourable J. J. Ball-Irving, the Honourable C. P. Chater, C.M.G., and A. Haupt, Esq.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. Hutton Potts, who offers himself for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 12th June, 1901.

The following is the statement of accounts:—
BALANCE-SHEET.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation		23.97	
Capital account		900,000.00	
Beith Stevenson & Co.		10,725.84	
Jardine, Matheson & Co.		1,369,281.97	
Accounts payable		46,794.57	
		\$2,326,831.35	

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Land		44,212.86	
Buildings		573,941.15	
Machinery		1,095,277.12	
Preliminary expenses		1,464.59	
Cash in hand		249.81	
Fire insurance, unexpired premia		2,041.64	
Mill stores		3,533.71	
Stock of coals		700.00	
Furniture		2,657.00	
Stock of yarn		304,610.12	
Stock of waste		5,795.80	
Taxes		312.00	
Water supply		1,489.93	
Accounts receivable		410.96	
Profit and loss account		250,134.66	
		\$2,326,831.35	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.		\$	c.
To balance from last account		144,588.47	
To balance of working account		43,015.22	
To interest		62,319.97	
To auditor's fee		250.00	
		\$250,173.66	

Cr.		\$	c.
By transfer fees		89.00	
By balance		250,134.66	
		\$250,173.66	

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 14th June.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, Kt., C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

PROBATE OF A WILL—ATTORNEY-GENERAL V. JACQUES.

This was a special case, called by consent of parties, to decide the liability or not of certain shares belonging to the estate of Joseph Jacques, deceased, not on the register of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at Hongkong, to be charged probate duty in this colony. The Attorney-General was the complainant, and Sarah Jacques, executrix of the will of her husband, Joseph Jacques, deceased, was the defendant.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (Acting Attorney-General), instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (Crown Solicitor), appeared for the complainant, and Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C., instructed by Mr. G. C. C. Master, solicitor (Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) for the defendant.

Mr. Pollock said the case was a special one called for the opinion of the Court under the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure as contained in Ordinance 17 of 1873, and the usual memoranda had been filed, together with that of the special case attached. As his Lordship would see from the special case, this was the question for the court to determine—whether or not probate duty in respect of 1,472 shares in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank ought to be paid in this colony. Paragraph 4 of the special case showed that 767 shares out of

these 1472 shares were on the London register of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, subject to a charge in favour of the Corporation of £975. In paragraph 5 of the special case it would be seen that 705 of the 1,472 shares were in the Shanghai list. The contention of the Attorney-General was that probate duty on these 1,472 shares ought to be paid in Hongkong, and the contention of the other side was that the shares were not situated in Hongkong, but respectively in England and within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Shanghai. Mr. Pollock submitted that, inasmuch as the business of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank was entirely controlled from this colony—the provisions of the deed of settlement would bear that out—probate duty must be paid in this colony, and the shares must be considered as being within the jurisdiction of that honourable Court.

Mr. Pollock then dealt at length with the provisions of the deed of settlement, after which arguments were proceeded with.

THE "PAK KONG" OPIUM CASE.

Mr. F. A. Hazeland on the 11th inst. delivered the following decision in the case in which Captain Mason, master of the steamer *Pak Kong*, was charged, on the complaint of Mr. Spooner, head excise officer, with unlawfully receiving on board the said ship, for importation and landing, 150 taels of prepared opium, in contravention of Section 3 of Ordinance 21 of 1891:—

"The defendant was summoned before me under Section 33 of the Opium Ordinance, 1891, for that he, as master of the steamship *Pak Kong* did, on the 30th May, 1901, use the said ship for the importation and landing of 150 taels of prepared opium.

"Section 33 of the Opium Ordinance, 1891 is as follows:—

"If any ship shall be used for the importation, landing, removal, carriage or conveyance of any opium in contravention of this Ordinance, the master, owners or agents thereof shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding one thousand dollars.

"An amount of any such opium found on board any such ship and exceeding,

- (a) In the case of any steamship of 60 tons burden and upwards, Tls. 50 in weight,
- (b) In the case of any steamship under 60 tons burden, Tls. 25 in weight,
- (c) In the case of all other ships, Tls. 10 in weight,

shall be deemed evidence of the unlawful use of any such ship unless it be proved to the satisfaction of the Magistrate that every reasonable precaution had been taken to prevent the unlawful use of any such ship, and that none of the officers or their servants or any of the crew of such ship were implicated therein.

"I reserved the preliminary question as to the construction to be placed on the words found on board in this Section. The evidence which was adduced by the prosecution as to the finding of the opium was to the effect that at 5 a.m. on the 30th May last, three and a half hours after the arrival of the steamship *Pak Kong*, a certain man was seen on the gangway of the said *Pak Kong*. He then came off the vessel and went through the gates of the wharf on to the Praya. There he was arrested, and on his person were found 30 tins of prepared opium, which weighed 150 taels. Although the penalty imposed is merely a pecuniary one, the Section is of an exceedingly stringent nature, and in my opinion I ought to apply to it that paramount rule which requires that every penal statute should be construed strictly. The actual finding on board is of the essence of the Section, and it is not sufficient simply to prove that the opium came from off the vessel. I am moreover of opinion that the Legislature intended that the offence should be restricted to cases of opium actually found on a ship, obviously to give the master of the said ship an opportunity to exculpate himself.

"My finding is therefore for the defendant, and I order this summons to be dismissed."

We regret to learn that Mr. W. Macbell, formerly assistant master at Queen's College, died on the 16th March last.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

"A" MACHINE GUN CO.

The June competition for the cups and spoons took place at the New Volunteer Range on the 9th instant, when Corporal Plummer scored his first win on the No. 1 Cup, and Gunner Black sent in the best contribution towards the No. 2 Cup.

Thirteen members competed, and the following were the best scores returned:—

	200	400	500	H'cap.	Tl.
* Corporal Plummer	18	31	28	14	91
* Captain Sanders	23	28	27	11	89
Gunner Black	17	27	13	25	82
" Smith, I.G.	19	26	20	10	75
" Emmett	13	18	18	25	74

* Winners of spoons.

BRITISH TRADE WITH SIAM.

[BY A LATE SIAMESE RESIDENT.]

When the next Consular report for Bangkok arrives it will have a serious tale of British shipping losses to tell. But it is not likely to come to hand for another five months or so, and in the meantime I have prepared from the daily shipping returns of the Siamese Custom House a few tables showing what our loss in that direction has been. Put briefly, the proportion of British vessels trading with Bangkok has fallen in three years from 76 per cent. to 38 per cent.; while their tonnage has dropped from 78 per cent. to 38 per cent. In the same period the German vessels have risen from 7 per cent. to 51 per cent.; and the tonnage from 6 per cent. to 45 per cent. This has been brought about by the transfer of the Holt Line and the Scottish Oriental Fleet to the Norddeutscher-Lloyd. Taking the returns given in previous Consular reports, and comparing them with the figures before me for the past year, we get the following table showing the percentage of chief competing nations in regard to both number of vessels and tonnage:—

		1897	1898	1899	1900
British..	p. c. of vessels	74	76	65	38
	tonnage	77	78	67	38
German..	vessels	5	6	16	45
	tonnage	8	7	19	51
French..	vessels	5	5	6	5
	tonnage	2	2	2	2
Scandinavian	vessels	11	9	5	3
	tonnage	11	7	4	2
All others	vessels	2	4	8	6
	tonnage	2	6	8	7

Among "all others" the nations showing the greatest activity are the Russians, Danish, and Dutch. In 1897 the Danes had one vessel of 523 tons. They have since established a regular line, and last year their figures were twelve vessels of 8,103 tons. The Dutch, with none in 1897, had last year thirteen vessels of 5,216 tons. Although the

TRANSFER OF THE HOLT LINE is no new fact, it has not hitherto been possible to gauge to the full the disastrous effect of this deal, and of that other by which the Scottish Oriental steamers, passed under the same flag. It might have been expected that there would have been a large increase in the number of tramp steamers flying the British flag. But such has not been the case, and it will be gathered from the above table that not only have we fallen off in numbers, but we have deteriorated in quality. Hitherto our tonnage percentage has been higher by two points than our number of vessels. Last year the two percentages were equal, while the German proportions had a difference of six in favour of the tonnage. The Germans have not only bought our biggest ships, but we have made no attempt to compete with them by running other big ones instead.

But even now we do not know the whole of our loss. The transfer of the Holt Line—the Blue Funnel steamers—took place on July 1, 1899, and this six months' change of flag explained the drop of our percentage of shipping in that year's consular report from 76 per cent. to 65 per cent. The transfer of the Scottish Oriental—the Red Funnel line—did not take place until last April. Therefore there were three months during which they appear in the returns now before me as British. Hence the drop to 38 per cent. will be followed

by a still further drop this year unless British enterprise is equal to the occasion. The following table gives the returns for April, May, June and July of the past two years, and will bring vividly before the reader the great change that has taken place:—

		April.		May.	
		1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
British..	{ Ships	28	11	20	11
	{ Tons	22,836	9,334	18,220	9,440
German..	{ Ships	1	10	3	12
	{ Tons	903	9,501	3,118	11,426

		June.		July.	
		1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
British..	{ Ships	23	6	16	10
	{ Tons	20,039	4,742	14,490	8,641
German..	{ Ships	1	17	8	23
	{ Tons	903	16,100	8,486	21,968

Unfortunately this is no isolated example of German encroachment in the Far East.

WE ARE YIELDING ALL ALONG THE LINE.

They are reaping a rich harvest from the "Conference," which ties the hands of our merchants, and compels them to ship by certain lines only, at a fixed freight. Given Free Trade in freights, and the Englishman can hold his own. Before the "Conference" freights from Singapore to London were 23s. to 27s. per ton. British superiority of organisation, &c., enabled us to carry on this business where our rivals would before long have been driven off. But the "Conference" came into existence, freights jumped up to 37s. 6d. 52s. 6d., and the Germans went ahead. They are extending feeders to their lines in all directions. The Siam and Borneo purchases are part of a steady policy which is putting steamers on the Burma and China rivers, and others running down into Oceania. Meanwhile an independent British steamer may call at our British colonies in vain. The merchants cannot depend on tramps; they must ship by the regular liners, as a rule. They are made to pay through the nose for the convenience, even after we allow for the 10 per cent. rebate allowed at the end of the year. But that rebate is not paid if a single ton of merchandise has been shipped by an independent steamer. Thus a British merchant in a British colony may be forced to refuse cargo to a British steamer, and then to ship it by a German liner, because the latter is in the "Conference."

One excuse given for the sale of the Siam lines was that they did not pay. This seems hardly credible to those who examine the values of cargo carried. In fact the British steamers trading with Bangkok had the most valuable of the cargoes in and out. Every ton of British shipping in 1893-4 carried cargo worth 109 dols., increased the following year to 119 dols. In the same years German vessels took 71 dols., and 106 dols. per ton, French 11 dols. and 82 dols., and Scandinavian 98 dols. and 100 dols. The value per ton given in the Consular return for 1898—none of later date are given—are:—British, 153 dols.; German 132 dols.; French, 66 dols.; and Scandinavian, 111 dols. The most valuable cargoes, or the best filled ships—which ever be the explanation of these figures—are not the worst paying, and if the other nationalities were able to trade and extend on their lower values, no one is likely to believe in the non-paying theory as regards our own vessels.

Be that as it may, we have capitulated to the Germans. There is at hand in Germany a period of great economic stress. Every effort will be made by means of preferential through rates and so forth to help the German manufacturers to force their goods into new markets. So far, by the aid of their own intrinsic worth, the friendly relations of the Siamese, and the possession of the only really regular lines of communication with Bangkok, our goods have gone ahead in Siam. What will happen when they have to face the handicap of carriage in German bottoms at rates in advance of those charged for German goods?—*Bangkok Times*.

It is stated that in the new Japanese Cabinet Mr. Komura, Japanese Minister to Peking, will probably be appointed to the Foreign Department; and it is reported that he has been ordered to return to Japan immediately. In that case Mr. Kurino, Japanese ex-Minister to Paris, is expected to succeed Mr. Komura in Peking.

GENERAL VOYRON'S REPORT.

The report sent home to Paris by General Voyron, head of the French forces in China, is now published. Writing from Peking on the 24th February, General Voyron speaks of the accomplishment by his forces of the duty confided to them, and the excellent state in which they have been maintained during the operations in North China. Going on to the question of fighting, he claims that the French officers have shown their skill in husbanding French lives and achieving success without unnecessary violence, though with the right amount of vigour against so fanatical an enemy. Gen. Voyron continues:—"We have waged honourable warfare, and in this country when all the expeditionary bodies have kept themselves under control it would be difficult to attack the reputation of the troops by actual facts adduced. Our attitude was that of a civilising Power, and we extended a ready welcome to peaceable people, protecting them from violence from all quarters. Our efforts, from this particular point of view, were fully crowned by success, and if the French flag was not loved in a country full of inextinguishable hatred for foreign intrusion, it was still ever the one under which the Chinese people sought protection for life and property." Later, General Voyron says:—"Obeying our Government's orders, we lent our aid to the common work of the Powers in every instance, absolutely and loyally. Yet the French expeditionary force under its General's orders preserved its independence and was able thereby to command the respect and often the sympathy of those who lived side by side with it."

The French public will no doubt be pleased.

THE CHEFOO-WEIHAIWEI CABLE.

A Parliamentary paper was issued last month giving the terms of the agreement made with the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company for the construction and working, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, of a submarine cable between Chefoo and Weihaiwei. A Treasury minute at the close of the paper summarises the agreement and the steps which led up to its conclusion. The need for telegraphic communication with Weihaiwei became apparent soon after its occupation, and as it became still more urgent in view of the events of last year, the Government approached the Eastern Extension Company in order to ascertain the terms on which it was prepared to connect Weihaiwei with the rest of its Chinese system. In the course of the negotiations, the Company intimated that it had been asked by the local Chinese Telegraph Administration to extend its cables to Chefoo and Taku, and that, if this extension were made, communication with Weihaiwei could be effected by the laying of a comparatively short cable thence to Chefoo. The Company offered to lay this cable for the payment of £16,000, and to work it, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, for a subsidy of £4,000 per annum, and asked in return for the support of the Government in the negotiations which it was carrying on with the Chinese Telegraph Administration. The terms offered by the Company were accepted by the Government, which requested the Company to lay the new line as rapidly as possible. It was opened for working on 5th September last year.

"The present agreement recites the arrangements explained above, and provides for the payment to the Company of the sum of £16,000 for the construction and laying of the cable within three months of the approval of this contract by the House of Commons. It also provides for an annual payment of £4,000 to the Company for working the cables on behalf of His Majesty's Government so long as they may so work it, and maintain the connection between it and the Taku-Chefoo-Shanghai cable. His Majesty's Government will pay for any repairs required to the cable. The agreement further stipulates for the employment of a British staff at Chefoo and Weihaiwei, and for the transmission of all traffic between these places, Shanghai and Hongkong as far as possible by British staffs. His Majesty's Government undertakes to protect the Company

during the working of the cables, and to use its best endeavours to secure from the Chinese Administration the due fulfilment of its engagements with the Company so far as they relate to the Taku-Chefoo-Shanghai cable, or to matters arising out of this agreement."

THE ALLIES AND THE INDIAN TROOPS.

The *Singapore Free Press* quotes various passages from a letter received from Peking. Among them occur some relating to the demoralisation of our Indian troops from contact with the other foreign forces. The letter quoted by our contemporary states that the rowdiness of the foreign contingent, the extremely free-and-easy ways of another, are rapidly acting as solvents upon the sense of discipline amongst the Indian regiments. But that is not so bad as the attitude of a third contingent towards our troops. They are outwardly friendly but actually most hostile of any, and their particular object appears to be to get our troops to quarrel with either the A—s or the B—s, the A—s perhaps first, but preferably with both. But in Peking here they have adopted a more invidious attitude, and that is to insult our sepoys. They abuse them freely in their own foreign language, and occasionally call them "coolies" in the universal phrase. The native officers have noticed this and are furious. It will be astonishing if there is not a serious row some day. Meanwhile our graceful concession staff have protested in mild fashion, and the sepoy's idea is that this is because we funk the Germans, French, Russians, everybody. That won't do us any good when the men get back to India.

THE MOHAMEDAN MISSION TO CHINA.

"We were looked at with suspicion by several missionaries who were our fellow-passengers on board the ship which brought us over," said his Excellency Enver Pacha, head of the Mohamedan mission to China, affable, courteous, of striking appearance and marked personality, and now staying with his wife, Madame Enver Pacha, and the other members of the mission, Captain Nazini Bey, two priests, Mustafa Effendi and Taher Effendi and two soldiers at the Hotel des Colonies.

"They evidently believed in the dark rumours circulated in the newspapers as to the object of the mission," queried the *North-China Daily News* representative.

"Yes," said Enver Pacha, "very probably they did." And then, with a smile, "Those rumours were very funny indeed, very funny, and some people put faith in them, and sincerely thought that we were going to stir up more unrest in China."

There is very little to state with regard to this mission of Mohamedans from Turkey to their co-religionists in China. According to Enver Pacha, the mission, although composed of Turkish Mohamedans, was sent to this land with the consent and approval of all the European Powers, and is therefore of an international character. The people of Turkey are not interested in it, and the Sultan was first approached by the Powers with a view to gaining his consent to its formation and dispatch.

The object of the mission, so it is asserted, is to pacify Mohamedans in the northwest provinces of China in the event of their causing the authorities trouble. If no trouble arises, the mission will remain at Shanghai, which the visitors regard as the finest city in the Far East, and a most desirable place of residence. There is no intention of proceeding to Peking, or elsewhere, if necessity, in the shape of turbulent Mohamedans on the warpath, does not call upon the staying hand of the mission to intervene.—*N.-C. Daily News*.

The Champion Stakes on the third day of the Tientsin Spring Race Meeting, 30th May, was won by Mr. J. M. D.'s well-known *Touch-me-not*, Mr. Evelyn's *Quo Vadis* being second and Mr. J. M. D.'s *Merlin* third. *Touch-me-not* also carried off the Provisional Governor's Cup, Mr. Dickinson receiving a massive silver goblet.

TRADE OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

A valuable report on the trade and shipping of South-East Asia has been recently issued by the Commercial, Labour and Statistical Department of the Board of Trade. It has been compiled by Mr. T. Worthington from various official documents, and deals with the trade of French Indo-China, Siam, the Straits Settlements and the British and Dutch possessions in the East Indies. With regard to the trade of the United Kingdom with the countries of South-East Asia it is shown that the total value of the merchandise imported from them into this country in the years 1895-1899 varied between four-and-a-half millions and six-and-a-half millions sterling annually, whilst the exports to the same countries from the United Kingdom showed a steady increase in value from £4,373,000 in 1895 to £5,386,000 in 1899. The growth in the import trade is chiefly due to increased exports from the Straits Settlements; these were valued at £5,868,000 in 1899, as against an average of £4,135,000 for the four previous years. The increased value of the export trade of the United Kingdom with these countries is due likewise partly to increased shipments to the Straits Settlements (£2,660,000 in 1899, as compared with an average of £2,365,000 for the previous four years) and also to a growing trade with the Dutch East Indies, the exports to which islands were valued at only £1,989,000 in 1895 but rose to £2,423,000 in 1899. The decreased value of imports from the Dutch East Indies may be said to be entirely due to smaller shipments of sugar, the value of these shipments having been only £87,000 in 1899, as compared with £676,000 in 1895.

HONGKONG.

H.M.S. *Hermione* left on the 10th inst. for Shanghai, being followed on the 11th inst. by H.M.S. *Algerine*. H.M.S. *Talbot* departed on the 11th inst. for Yokohama.

Apart from plague the cases of communicable disease reported in the Colony last week were:—Enteric fever, 3 cases (Europeans, in Victoria); puerperal fever, 1 case (Chinese, in Victoria); small-pox, 1 case (Chinese). The last case alone ended fatally.

A committee has been appointed in connection with the proposed *Dharmasala* for Hindus and Sikhs at Happy Valley, the foundation stone of which was laid on Sunday, the 9th inst., by Raizada Lachman Singh (Indian Commissariat Base Department), who has given to the fund altogether \$650. He is a son of Rai Bahadar Sardar Anoop Singh, Resident of Lahore. Other subscriptions are:—Maharaja of Gwalior, \$250; Hongkong Police, \$2,000; Royal Artillery, \$1,500; shopkeepers, \$1,200; watchmen, \$900; Shanghai, \$600; and "A" Company, Royal Artillery, Singapore, \$900.

We very much regret to learn of the death at Kobe on the 10th inst. of Mr. A. F. Williamson, of the Chart red Bank of India, Australia and China, and we feel sure that the announcement will come as a great shock to all who knew Mr. Williamson here, including his personal friends and his numerous associates of the St. Andrew's Society and the Football Club. Mr. Williamson was only 23 years of age, and had been in the Colony two years when he was invalided to Japan, suffering from malarial fever. Bad news of his state reached the Colony a few weeks back, but no one was prepared for the sad fate which has so suddenly overtaken him.

On the 8th inst., a meeting of the principal Chinese merchants was held at the office of the Chinese Commercial Union, 30 and 32, Des Voeux Road Central, to discuss the advisability of adopting H.E. the Governor's suggestion regarding the construction of Chinese tenement houses according to the new plan, laid before the Sanitary Board at its last meeting. A good many of the native merchants were present, including Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, who was in the chair, and a lively discussion was indulged in. The Commercial Union, we are told, has been formed merely with a view to helping to enlighten the Government on future legislation by gathering the opinions of the Chinese residents of every class, and laying them before the Government through their representatives.

The hired transport *Ula* sailed on the 8th inst. for the North with stores, ordnance, etc.

The Austrian 3rd class cruiser *Leopard*, of 1,582 tons, arrived on Friday afternoon from the Pescadores. The German gunboat *Jaguar* left for Pakhoi.

The half-yearly test of hydrants at the Ordnance Buildings, Wellington Barracks, and Victoria Barracks, will be carried out on Friday, the 21st inst.

On the 11th inst. the British transport *Glengyle* arrived from Taku, and the German troopship *Rhein* from Bremen. The *Rhein*, which left on the 13th inst., had 1,849 troops on board.

A *Government Gazette Extraordinary*, issued on the 13th, published a despatch from H.B.M. Acting Consul-General at Bangkok, enclosing a regulation enforcing against British vessels from Hongkong the provisions of a Siamese Quarantine Decree.

A water polo match at Kowloon on Wednesday evening between the V.R.C. and 25th Co. E.D.R.A. attracted a good number of spectators. The 25th Co. were much the superior team, although the final score was only four goals to three in their favour.

From the returns of the Subordinate Court for 1900 it appears that 14,081 cases, involving 16,696 prisoners, came under the cognisance of the Police Magistrate's Court during the year. 13,149 males and 501 females were convicted and punished, 2,416 males and 235 females discharged, 181 males and 5 females committed for trial at the Supreme Court, and 11 males committed to prison or detained pending orders of H.E. the Governor.

Wong Po, the widow who was sentenced to death for the murder of Kwong Cheung, Supreme Court messenger, and whose sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life, died on the 7th inst. in the Government Civil Hospital, where she was removed from prison recently on account of her health. An inquest was held on the 8th inst. and resulted in a verdict of death from malignant malarial fever after premature child birth. The woman remained unconscious till she died.

The damage by the fire at 292, Queen's Road Central on the 8th inst. is estimated at \$15,000. The premises, a paper and stationery shop, are insured for \$21,100—the Transatlantic Company (of which the local agents are Messrs. Siemssen & Co.), \$8,000; the Chung On, \$6,000; and the Tung On, \$7,100. The owner of the adjoining house, No. 296, claims \$7,000 for water damage. These premises are insured for \$40,000. The cause of the outbreak is unknown, but it is believed to have been accidental.

Fire broke out at 10 p.m. on the 7th inst. in a Chinese dwelling-house on the top floor at 292, Queen's Road Central. Viewed from the street, the premises involved presented one sheet of flame, and burning embers were dropping freely on the street. The Fire Brigade lost no time in getting to work, and streams of water were directed on the flames from every available direction. The wall of the adjoining house was broken through and a hose played on the burning house. By eleven o'clock the fire was well in hand, the only indication of its existence being the great volumes of smoke rising.

The feast of Corpus Christi was held with unusual pomp and solemnity this year on Sunday last at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, the Right Rev. Bishop Piazzoli officiating, assisted by all the Roman Catholic clergy in Hongkong. In the afternoon vespers were sung by the choir and the clergy, and were followed by a sermon very eloquently delivered by the Rev. Theodosio Xavier, of the Macao diocese. A grand procession then took place on the compound of the Cathedral, and was followed by a very large concourse of people, among whom we noticed the Consul-General for Portugal, the Consul for Italy, the Consul for Austria-Hungary, the Vice-Consul for Brazil, and several naval officers from the Portuguese gunboat *Zaire*. The Portuguese Amateur Band was also in attendance, and played two slow marches for the procession. The service concluded with the Benediction. A word of praise is due to the gentlemen who so efficiently carried out the arrangements for the feast, the interior of the Cathedral being tastefully decorated with a profusion of plants in pots and flowers.

On the 13th inst. the British transport *Chingtu* left for Taku, and on the 13th inst. the *Glengyle* for Calcutta.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. Galicano Apacible has been added to the register of qualified medical and surgical practitioners in the Colony.

A polo match took place on the 11th inst. at Kowloon between the V.R.C. and a team from H.M.S. *Janus*. The former were victorious by five goals to two.

Last week the Army Inspector started on his half-yearly inspection of the Garrison Schools, and will make a visit to all the schools during the course of the week.

A number of Chinese boys were, on the 10th inst., swinging on the gate at the entrance to the Race-course, when the hinges gave way, and one of the boys was killed by the gate falling upon him.

A dead rat was found a day or two ago in the room adjoining the library at the Supreme Court. The sanitary authorities were communicated with, and on Sunday the building was disinfected.

The steamer *Haiching*, whose departure was delayed owing to one of the engineers having been taken ill with plague, was released from quarantine on the 7th inst. and sailed in the evening for Calcutta.

A fire broke out on the top floor of 31, Peel Street, on the 13th inst. at about 1 o'clock. The whole of the roof fell in, but the damage was estimated at being not more than \$200. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Lieut.-Col. J. L. Wheeler, Ordnance Officer of the Second Class, has been appointed to be Ordnance Officer of the First Class, with the substantive rank of Colonel in the Army. Lieutenant Douglas Clapham, R.G.A., has been promoted to the rank of Captain.

With reference to our notice of the 7th inst. we regret to state that advices were received in the Colony yesterday that the Rev. G. L. Mackay D.D., died at Tamsui on the 2nd instant, after just having completed his thirtieth year of ministry in North Formosa.

The Rev. E. J. Hardy, M.A., has been appointed chaplain to the forces in Hongkong, in succession to the Rev. G. R. Vallings, who has been appointed to a living in Argyllshire. Many will be disappointed to learn that Mr. and Mrs. Vallings are not returning to the colony, and the latter will be especially missed in musical circles. The new chaplain is well known as a magazine writer, and is the author of *How to be happy though married*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A society has been founded, with headquarters in Paris, which has for its object the promotion of irrigation to assist in the agricultural development of Indo-China.

A suggestion has been made in Bangkok that a Chinese Protectorate should be established by the Siamese Government, with an advisory Board of prominent Chinese residents.

On Sunday, the 2nd inst., a new church at Yokohama was consecrated, Dr. Awdry, Bishop of South Tokyo, performing the ceremony. The church will be known as Christ Church, Yokohama.

Tonkin papers report the first instance of the operation of "M. de Saigon"—in other words, the headsman—in Tonkin. The occasion was the execution of two Anamites for the murder of their European master.

Shanghai mandarins have received an official despatch from Peking informing them that the Roman Catholic Bishop of Shansi has demanded an indemnity of no less than seven million taels for the losses sustained by Romanist converts in that province. It is claimed that at least 7,000 of the latter were massacred in Shansi last year. It is plain that the remainder will be in very affluent circumstances in the future.

The first batch of mules, about 500 in number, purchased under General Gaselee's orders in China for Mountain Battery and transport work in India, arrived in Calcutta at the end of last month. After being classed, they will be sent on to the various military centres selected. The testing operations will occupy three weeks. The transports *Formosa*, *Clavering*, *Chingtu*, *Haiching*, *Glengyle* and *Umla* take 4,000 more mules for India.

Dr. P. L. Sherman, special agent of the Forestry Bureau of the Philippines, left Manila recently on a tour of investigation in the Straits Settlements and Java, and, if necessary, Sumatra, to obtain information regarding the rubber and gutta percha industries, with a view to their development in the Philippines. During his mission Doctor Sherman will study the best methods of obtaining gutta percha, and devote special attention to the new process of extracting it from leaves, bark, and twigs, a method altogether unknown among the more crude and primitive workers of the Philippine Islands, who usually obtain their supply by recklessly cutting down the tree, and removing the exudation of gum.

The *Sinwénpuo* has the following from its Shensi correspondent:—A few months ago the Mahomedan population of Haich'ung, a district of Kuynan, Kansu province, said to have been pushed thereto by famine, rose up in insurrection and commenced pillaging and robbing the Government granaries and the wealthy residents of that city not belonging to the Mahomedan faith. This insurrection was eventually suppressed by General Tung Fuhsiang, who personally led his troops from Pingliangfu, in the same province, where Tung's headquarters had been established ever since his transference from Hsian last winter. There is also a rumour that someone has been busy in Kansu province trying to stir up the Mahomedans there to rebel.

A Simla telegram of the 30th ult. says:—The following further reductions of the China Expeditionary Force have been sanctioned: "B" Battery, Royal Horse Artillery; the First Infantry Brigade, viz., 7th Bengal Infantry, 26th Bombay Infantry, 1st Sikhs, 24th Punjab Infantry; No 2 Company, Bombay Sappers; the Staff of the First Infantry and Cavalry Brigades; Commanding Royal Artillery and Commanding Royal Engineers—Another telegram says:—Ninety days' privilege leave is sanctioned for all officers and subordinates subject to military rules reverting from Field Service in China. In view of the uncertainty regarding the relief or otherwise of units of the Indian Contingent in South Africa, the question of sending home more families is held over until the next trooping season.

An official despatch from Chefoo to the Japanese Government states that only one Chinese gunboat has been sent to suppress the pirates to the west of Chefoo and to the south of Liaotung. A single gunboat was not sufficient to suppress the piracy, and things have been getting worse lately. Chinese junks are frequently attacked and robbed, and communication along the coasts mentioned is interrupted. A large quantity of merchandise is stored in Chefoo, and the local market is afflicted. Various Japanese steamboats have been chartered lately to tow junks on Riuko, Kotogai, Yokakko and Tansho, near the frontier of Chihli; but the pirates show no sign of relinquishing their depredations. The latest report is that large piratical craft have been seen cruising off the coast to intercept and board passing junks. The pirates have fire-arms, swords, and other weapons, and a number of casualties have occurred already.

The *San Francisco Call*, emphasising its remark with an appalling portrait of the gentleman, announces that Mr. John Barrett, former U.S. Minister to Siam, will succeed Mr. E. H. Conger as U.S. Minister to Peking. Our contemporary says:—"Mr. Barrett is now engaged in the work of enlisting the leading men and the commercial bodies of the Pacific Coast in his behalf as a candidate for the Chinese appointment. He has interviewed the members of the California Congressional delegation and the trustees and directors of leading commercial bodies, and has secured endorsements tending to show that he is favoured by the Pacific Coast people. It being understood that President McKinley considers such evidence of favour an indispensable prerequisite to the appointment, the President being of opinion that the wishes of the coast should be the leading factor in determining the matter." Of course, we need not add that Mr. Barrett disclaims making any efforts at San Francisco to be Minister to Peking. The situation will strike those who do not belong to the Land of Freedom as rather amusing.

At the dinner given to him by the Lyons Chamber of Commerce, M. Doumer spoke much of the great future in store for Indo-China, "the base of French action in the Far East." The Governor-General was most cordially fêted.

The U.S. flagship *Kentucky*, with Admiral Kempff on board, was expected at Woosung on the 5th inst. The *N.-C. Daily News* learn that it is intended by the U.S. Government to reduce its naval squadron in these waters by twelve vessels.

The Tientsin *Jeh-jeh Sinwen* confirms a recent statement that an Imperial decree has been lately issued appointing Lo Feng-lu, at present Chinese Minister to the Court of St. James, and H ü Shou-peng Chinese Minister to Corea, at present in Peking, to be Vice-Presidents of the newly sanctioned Board of Foreign Affairs in place of the abolished Tsungli Yamén.

Recently the chapel established by the London Missionary Society outside the North Gate of Chang-sha, Hunan, was looted. The authorities caught four men and gave them a thousand blows each. Three others were cangued, and sent to the front door of the chapel as a warning to the public. The losses of goods, etc., were paid for by the district magistrate, which terminated the affair.

Admiral Rodgers, who is now at Cavite on his flagship the *New York*, has been detailed by the Navy Department at Washington to represent the United States at the unveiling of the Perry monument on July 14th at Mississippi bay, Yokohama. It is expected that the Admiral will sail from Cavite on or about the 20th inst. This selection of Admiral Rodgers is very fitting, says the *Manila Times*, as he is a grandson of Commodore Perry. Admiral Beardsley (retired), who is now in Japan, and who has been one of the chief workers in the erection of this monument, was with Commodore Perry when he first landed in Japan. The unveiling of this monument is to be made a national event by the Japanese Government, who have detailed representatives of both the army and navy to be present. It will also be made a holiday by the American residents of Japan.

The *Universal Gazette* hears that the two Courts are coming to Peking, via Shenchow, Honanfu, crossing the Yellow River at Mengchin to Huaiching, Weihui, Changte, Shunte, Chengting and Paotingfu. The Empress-Dowager does not want to go on at once to Peking, but desires to remain for a time at the capital of Honan, permitting the Emperor to go ahead, and begin personal government. Over twenty stopping-places must be got ready. Each stage will cost 80,000 taels, a total of 1,600,000 taels, which the provincial authorities are asked to provide. The former report about the actual construction of the telegraph along the proposed route was premature. It is now said that a certain high official has urged that a line be constructed from Tungkuan to Honan, north of the Yellow River and so on to Peking. The Shanghai *hsien* is ordered to provide three thousand taels towards the expenses of the Imperial progress to Peking.

The *Foochow Echo* of the 8th inst. has the following items:—There were two shocks of earthquake yesterday morning at 5 min. past 8 o'clock, which, as in previous occurrences of the kind, were felt more on the river side than on the hill. The second shock was thought to be severer than had been experienced here for many years past.—We learn that the wreck of the steamer *Sobraon* was purchased by a syndicate at this port. May success attend the enterprise.—The Foochow tea market is alive again. Musters of the season's Congous and Souchongs were shown on the 3rd inst., and business in them commenced the next day. As compared with previous years the daily transactions are small. Although there is little to commend the crop in point of quality, prices are fully on a parity with those of last year, which comes about through the known important shortage of the first crop, particularly of high grade teas. The conference lines are providing ample tonnage; the *Dardanus* will clear to-day for London and the German Mail steamer *Hamburg* for Bremen; the steamer *Socotra* on the 10th via Marseilles for London, and the *Glenshiel* on the 13th for London direct.

An official despatch from Peking, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, states that Prince Ching is strongly opposed to using the salt revenue for paying off the indemnity, and to this end has decided to ask the Throne to allow certain economies to be effected in the Imperial Household Department and other Metropolitan Government expenses, amounting in all to some 5 or 6 million taels per annum, and then by effecting other economies in the provincial governments procure some 4 or 5 million taels more. In this way a saving of about 11 million taels can be obtained without much trouble, thereby saving the salt revenue of the Empire to defray the regular expenses of the Empire itself.

According to a Japanese paper, the Chinese Eastern Railway Company started its shipping business with six steamers purchased from various ship-owners, and afterwards constructed two vessels at Shanghai for the company's service in the sea of Okhotsk. In England there are now six steamers in course of construction, two of which are expected to be ready for sea in the course of two or three months. These two vessels are to be employed in the company's regular service between Port Arthur and Nagasaki, while the four others will, on completion, be used for service along the coasts of Siberia. It is expected that the company will have fifteen steamers, with an aggregate registered tonnage of 19,300, by the end of this year.

The Shanghai A.D.C. gave on the 4th inst. their opening performance of *His Excellency the Governor* at the Lyceum Theatre. The piece, though rather an ambitious choice, was excellently received. The cast (in which many of our readers no doubt will be able to penetrate the pseudonymity) was as follows:—H.E. Sir Montague Martin, Mr. V. de Maire; the Right Hon. Henry Carlton, M.P., Mr. D. Munday; Captain Charles Carew, Mr. Seton Burn; Captain Rivers, Mr. Oliphant; John Baverstock, Mr. J. L. Mackenzie; Major Kildare, Mr. C. de Lacy; a Clerk, Mr. Edwards; a Sentry, Mr. Byrket; Groves, Mr. St. Casse; Mrs. Wentworth Bolingbroke, Miss Muriel de Vere; Ethel Carlton, Miss Kate Leslie; Stella de Gex, Miss Ste. Barbe.

Mr. John Charles Tudor Vaughan, who is to take up the position of 2nd Secretary of the British Legation, Peking, should have been here in 1899. In March of that year he was transferred to Peking from Cairo—being promoted to 2nd Secretary a month later—but did not proceed to China. Instead, he was seconded for service under the Colonial Office as Secretary to the Agency at Pretoria on the 25th July, 1899, but only remained there until the 11th of October, when the interruption of international relations occurred there. He then acted as Assistant Private Secretary to Sir Alfred Milner until the 2nd of September, 1900, when he was appointed Political Secretary to Field-Marshal Lord Roberts. It will thus be seen how belated is his taking up of the 2nd Secretaryship at Peking.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The passengers who went home in the P. and O. steamer *Plassy* enjoyed the voyage very much, writes one of them well known locally, who sends us the following copy of an address presented to Captain Preston:—

P. and O. R.M.S. *Plassy*.

Near Marseilles, 26th April, 1901.

"Dear Captain Preston,—A few of your China friends, who have had the pleasure of travelling home on this the maiden trip of the *Plassy*, wish, in saying *au revoir*, to express to you their great appreciation of your kindness to them on the voyage now nearing completion. The table service and all other arrangements for our general comfort have given the utmost satisfaction, and, with your genial encouragement and support, always so good-naturedly and readily given, everything that could be done by you has tended to our complete enjoyment of the trip, and we congratulate our selves on having been so fortunate in travelling under such happy auspices. Some of us may hope to be lucky enough to again have the pleasure of returning East with you, but, in any case, we all unite in wishing you continued good health and luck; and may every voyage of the *Plassy* be as happy as that now ending! With every good wish, we are, yours very sincerely."

[Signatures of all Shanghai and Hongkong first saloon passengers—about 40—follow.]

The principal road in the Japanese settlement, Tientsin, has been named the "Yamaguchi Road" in honour of Baron Lient-General Yamaguchi commander of the Fifth Divisional Army. The Japanese general was present at the ceremony of naming the road.

The administration of the Siberian Railway gave notice some time ago that in consequence of the excess of goods traffic it could not be responsible for the punctual delivery of merchandise. The construction of the line between Orenberg and Tashkent will be commenced in the course of the present spring at the cost of the Crown. The work will begin at both ends simultaneously. The Murghab section will shortly be opened to regular traffic.

The *New Press* publishes a telegram from Tientsin, dated 3rd June, to the following effect:—Last night a mixed crowd of two hundred French and German soldiers in the Taku Road mobbed the regular regimental patrol of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, who were going rounds as usual. The patrol only numbered five men, who stood their ground and bravely defended themselves for one hour against these unequal odds, and then, finding the swarm of their assailants still increasing, the patrolmen fired and bayoneted, killing two French and one German.

Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co. advise us that they received a telegram on the 7th inst. from the Head Office in London of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., stating that the general meeting of shareholders will be held on the 13th instant. The directors propose, after allowing for depreciation on steamers, &c., for the year 1900, to deal with the accounts as follows:—To pay a final dividend of 6 per cent. and a bonus of 4 per cent.; making with the interim dividend of 4 per cent. already paid, 14 per cent. for the year. To transfer £70,000 to general reserve fund. To add £44,392 to underwriting account increasing it to £206,100. To add £4,298 to exchange reserve account, increasing it to £11,699. To carry forward £13,500.

A *New Press* Peking telegram of the 27th ult. says:—A deplorable shooting accident occurred yesterday afternoon, about four o'clock. An American sentry was posted at the Legation Street bridge (only a few feet from the U. S. Legation) with strict orders to stop all horses or vehicles of any kind from coming past him, as that portion of the road is at present under repairs and the work has been much delayed by soldiers persisting in riding or driving past. A German Marine then came, with a cart, and was called on by the U.S. sentry to halt. This the German flatly refused to do, so the sentry had no alternative but to fire. He fired his rifle, not with any idea of hurting the German, but as a warning. Unfortunately the bullet glanced off the wall of the bridge and sped along the other part of Legation Street, penetrating the leg of the sentry at the German Legation. The wound is not serious.

The *Bangoon Gazette*, commenting on the opening of a railway line from Mandalay to Hsipaw, on the 1st inst., says:—The opening of this line will be of great benefit to the Northern Shan States. Nearly two years ago the traffic passing over the ferry at Hsipaw in six weeks showed that over 5,000 carts and 43,000 pack animals had used the ferry. There was besides a large boat traffic at Hsipaw which it was found impracticable to enumerate and there are four other ferries south of Hsipaw where statistics were not taken. In times of old cart-hire at Hsipaw used to rise enormously, as much Rs. 56 per cart from Mandalay to Hsipaw being occasionally charged—the normal rate in the open season being Rs. 18. The import of live stock from the Northern Shan States into Burma has been steadily growing, sheep, goats, ponies and bullocks all being sent down for sale. This traffic is likely to increase now there is a railway open. Hsipaw, for some years to come at any rate, will be the principal trade depot in the Northern Shan States, and its people, as well as its Sawn, are to be congratulated on the opening of the railway, which we hope will prove a source of prosperity and comfort to all of them after so many years of comparative isolation from the rest of the world.

It has been notified in Simla that Rs. 30,000 have been allotted from the Mansion House Fund for the relief of the families of native followers employed with the China Force. Application for the same is to be made to the Treasurer, Indian Followers' Family Relief Fund, Army Headquarters, Simla.

The Tokyo Police have issued a notification that citizens must not go about with bare feet outside the precincts of their own residences. Any person violating this interdiction will be punished for misdemeanour. The veto is intended as a precaution against plague, a matter which is causing much concern in Tokyo, and prompting very vigorous sanitary measures.

The *Bangkok Times* says:—One of the quaintest reasons that the guileful Chinese "boy" has been able to give for his objection to the new registration scheme, is the statement that registration is merely the preliminary to a tattooing on the back of the hand, and that all those so marked will presently be called upon to fight for Siam. This country, they say, is shortly going to war with China, and the registration scheme is merely a device to raise an army.

The following announcements were made last month at the Admiralty:—Lieutenants—O. H. Bonham-Carter (G.), M. T. Daniel (N.), R. A. Preston, and A. N. Gouldsmith, to the *Eclipse*, to date May 30; H. E. Hillman, to the *Woodlark*, in command, undated. Acting Lieutenant, R.N.R.—E. L. Raymond, to the *Orlando*, for second period of 12 months' service, to date May 20. Midshipmen—A. S. Douglas, to date May 20. G. P. M. FitzGerald, C. J. L. Noakes, and B. Vigne, to the *Eclipse*, to date May 30. Assistant Engineer—P. F. Griffiths, to the *Barfleur*, temporarily, to date May 10. Staff Surgeon—C. G. Matthew, M.B., to the *Eclipse*, to date May 30. Surgeon—A. J. Hewitt, to the *Eclipse*, to date May 30.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1 lbs.	1899-00 lbs.
Yokohama	—	—
Kobe	—	—
Hiogo	905,172	619,296
	905,172	619,296

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 14th June.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 14th June.—The downward tendency continues, the market being dull. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.73 to \$8.78	pcd.
do. " 2, White.....	7.95 to 8.00	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	5.70 to 5.75	"
do. " 2, Brown	5.60 to 5.65	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.60 to 8.65	"
do. " 1, White.....	7.80 to 7.85	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown	5.60 to 5.65	"
do. " 2, Brown	5.45 to 5.55	"
Foochow Sugar Candy	13.45 to 13.50	"
Shekloong "	12.75 to 12.80	"

RICE.

HONGKONG, 14th June.—Some demands having come from the mainland, prices are consequently advancing. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.40 to 2.45
" Round, Good quality	3.60 to 3.65
" Long	3.80 to 3.85
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.45 to 2.50
" Garden, " No. 1	3.30 to 3.35
" White.....	4.00 to 4.05
" Fine Cargo	4.35 to 4.40

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, sailed on the 8th June. For London:—15 bales waste silk opt. Manchester, 40 bales raw silk, 11 cases silks, 3,662 boxes tea from Foochow, 219 boxes tea from Foochow, 3 cases cigars from Manila, 1 case bird feathers, 1 box clothing, 2 cases cabinet. For Lyons:—482 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—115 bales raw silk, 4 cases feathers.

Per steamer *Laos*, sailed on the 3rd June. For Marseilles:—114 bales raw silk, 8 cases silks, 147 pkgs. tea, 16 pkgs. sundries. For Lyons:—523 bales raw silk. For Milan:—20 bales raw silk. For London:—1 case rope.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 14th June.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*: 650 bales No. 10 at \$80 to \$88, 450 bales No. 12 at \$86.50 to \$89, 100 bales No. 16 at \$92 to arrive, 350 bales No. 20 at \$98.50 to \$100. *Grey Shirtings*: 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$2.90, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$2.90, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Mandarin at \$4.35. *White Shirtings*: 300 pieces Gold Tiger at \$7.20, 400 pieces Blue Lion at \$6.90, 500 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.90, 500 pieces Flower at \$5.45. *Mexicans*: 600 pieces 36 Stag Hunter at \$3.30, 1,880 pieces 36 Stag Hunter at \$3.30, 750 pieces 32 No. 2 Silver Dragon at \$2.

COTTON YARN —	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$75.00 to \$109.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.00 to 2.10
7 lbs.	2.15 to 2.30
8.4 lbs.	2.60 to 3.25
9 to 10 lbs.	3.30 to 4.40
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.30 to 2.50
58 to 60 "	3.00 to 3.75
64 to 66 "	4.00 to 5.30
Fine.....	5.00 to 7.40
Book-folds	4.00 to 6.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.73 to 1.20
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.60 to 1.75
7lbs. (32 ")	1.80 to 2.05
6lbs. (32 ")	1.80 to 2.00
7lbs. (32 ")	2.65 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	2.70 to 3.20
Drills, English—40yds., 14 to 16 lbs.	4.00 to 6.75

FANCY COTTONS—	
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	1.55 to 5.00

Brocades—Dyed	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22½ to 0.60
Velvets—18 in.	0.20 to 0.22½

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	per dozen
Woolens—	0.36 to 2.50
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.80 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 2.50

Long Ells—Scarlet.....	per piece
Assorted.....	6.40 to 10.00
Camlets—Assorted.....	6.50 to 10.10
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches (Assorted)	12.50 to 32.00
Orleans—Plain	8.00 to 20.00
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	8.50 to 10.00

METALS—	per pair
Iron—Nail Rod	4.00 to 18.00
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.35 to —
Swedish Bar	4.45 to —
Small Round Rod	6.75 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	4.60 to —
Wire 15/25	5.25 to —
Old Wire Rope	8.25 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	2.10 to —
Australian	8.50 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14, 20 oz.	8.25 to —
Vivian's 14, 20 oz.	41.00 to —
Elliot's 14, 20 oz.	40.50 to —
Composition Nils.....	63.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	41.00 to —
Tin.....	69.50 to —

Tin-Plates	per box.
Steel ½ to 1	7.25 to —
New Chops 14, 20 oz.	5.75 to —

SUNDRIES—	per picul
Quicksilver	168.00 to —
Window Glass	5.75 to —
Kerosene Oil.....	2.15 to —

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—*Ferrametta* (str.), *Japan* (str.), *Olegarry* (str.), *Alcinous* (str.), *Machon* (str.), *Socotra* (str.), *Prometheus* (str.), *Hitachi Maru* (str.).

FOR LIVERPOOL.—*Glaucus* (str.).
FOR MARSEILLES.—*Socotra* (str.), *Natal* (str.), *Hitachi Maru* (str.).
FOR BREMEN.—*Sachsen* (str.), *Sambia* (str.).
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Sambia* (str.), *Wuersburg* (str.), *Nurnberg* (str.), *Arilia* (str.).
FOR TRIESTE.—*India* (str.).
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*Duke of Fife* (str.).
FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.), *Athenian* (str.).
FOR PORTLAND (OREGON).—*Indravelli* (str.).
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—*America Maru* (str.), *Peru* (str.).
FOR NEW YORK.—*Hillglen* (str.), *Indrani* (str.), *Arara* (str.), *Glenartney* (str.), *L. Schepp* (str.).
FOR SAN DIEGO.—*Belgian King* (str.).
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—*Rosetta Maru* (str.), *Taiwan* (str.), *Airlie* (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, AND CALCUTTA.—*Lightning* (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE AND BOMBAY.—*Melpomene* (str.).
FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—*Mike Maru* (str.).

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 14th June.—A moderate business has been transacted during the week just brought to a close, and rates, with the exception of Raubs which have suffered a severe decline, have been fairly well maintained throughout.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled firm, and sales at gradually rising rates up to 39½ per cent. premium have to be recorded. The London rate is £61. Nationals are unchanged at \$27 buyers.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been disposed of at \$340. Other stocks under this heading are unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have declined to \$350. China Fires continue in the market at \$37½, but without tempting buyers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been sold at \$35, and rule steady at this figure with further shares offering for sale. Indo-Chinas improved their position on news being received of a final dividend of 2½s. (including bonus), and this stock closes firm with sales up to \$144 cash. On time, transactions are reported up to \$150 for end of July. Douglasses have been sold at \$54 and \$55 cash, and close with sellers at \$56. China Mutuals, Star Ferr'es, and Shell Transports are unchanged at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been in strong request, and close firm with buyers at \$142. Luzons are to be had at \$38.

MINING.—The feature of the week has been the decline in Raubs. Sales have been effected down to \$8, but a recovery has since taken place, and the market closes firm at \$12½ buyers with shares unobtainable under \$13. Panjoms have declined to \$6½, and Jebebus to \$5.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have weakened somewhat, and sales of small lots at varying rates down to \$322½ cash are recorded. The market closes quiet at \$325. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves remain at \$105 without business. New Amoy Docks are steady at \$22½.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed at \$199 cash, and at \$200 for June 30th, the market closing with small buyers at these rates. Kowloon Lands are still in request at \$30. West Points have been sold at \$54. Hongkong Hotels have been placed at \$125, and more shares are wanted at this figure. Oriente Hotels have declined to \$70. Humphreys Estates are offering at \$13½.

COTTON MILLS.—No changes to report under this head, beyond a possible demand for Hongkong Cottons at quotation.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Manila Investments have been sold at rising rates up to \$56½, at which there are further buyers. Green Island Cements have been sold and are in further request at \$19½. A. S. Watson's have declined to \$15½, at which there are sellers. Ropes have improved to \$167½ with buyers. Campbell Moores are wanted at \$21. Providents have been sold and are wanted at \$9.85. Watkins are obtainable at \$94. Philippine Tobacco shares have been sold at \$58 and \$59, and are now quoted at \$60. Alhambra are quiet at \$1,500.

MEMOS.—Hongkong Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Limited, ordinary annual meeting on the 29th instant. Transfer books will be closed from the 21st instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	{ 390, p. ct. prm. = [\$612. L'don, £61.
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$27, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$27, buyers
Foun. Shares...	£1	\$15, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	£1	\$1.10.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$20.
China-Borneo Co., Ld	\$15	\$38, sellers
China Light & Power } Co., Ld.	\$20	20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M....	\$10	\$9.85, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$142, buyers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited ...	\$500	\$1,500, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 55.
Soychee	Tls. 100	Tls. 325.
Yahloong	Tls. 500	Tls. 25.
Hongkong	\$100	\$71.
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$71, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$55, sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$194, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$135, buyers
Hongkong Electric }	\$10	\$121, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$5	\$61, buyers
Hk. Steam Water }	\$100	\$225, buyers
boat Co., Ld.	£5	\$71, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$125, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$175, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50	\$105.
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$161, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$325.
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$180, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$871, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$60, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$350.
North China	\$25	Tls. 180.
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$340, sales
Yangtze	\$60	\$125.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$199, buyers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$134, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$54, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$38, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ld.	\$50	\$561, sales & buys.
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$325.
Jelebu	\$5	\$5, sellers
Queen's Mines, Ld....	25c.	6 cents, sellers
Olivers Mines, A....	\$5	\$11, sellers
Do. B.	\$41	\$11, sellers
Punjoni	\$9	\$61, sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.25.
Raubis	18	\$121, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$61	\$221.
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$70.
Philippine Tobacco }		
Invest. Co., Ld. ... }	\$50	\$60, sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ld.	\$50	\$50, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$62, sales
China Mutual Pref.	\$40	\$52, sales
China Ordinary	£10	£12.
Do.	£5	£7.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$56, sellers
H. Canton and M....	\$15	\$35, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$144, sales & buys.
Shell Transport and }		
Trading Co. }	£1	£2. 15s.
Star Ferry	\$10	{ \$22, buyers { \$81, sales & buys.
Tebrau Planting Co....	\$5	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$111, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$20.
Wanchai Warehouse...	\$371	nominal.
Watkins, Ld.	\$10	\$91, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$151, sellers
Universal Trading }		
Co., Ld. }	\$5	\$191, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 5th June (From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.) BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares changed hands at 372.50 per cent. prem. early in the week; market closes quiet. National Banks are wanted. INSURANCE.—Marine. No business reported in these stocks.

Unions and China Traders are wanted, and Cantons are offering. Fire Chinas are offering. SHIPPING.—Indo-China S. N. Co. The market is again active in view of approaching announcement of year's result and dividend; cash sales are reported up to Tls. 98 and shares are in further demand; a closing settlement for 30th inst. fetched Tls. 100 and further settlements were made for September at 99, October 100 and 101. Shell Transport shares sold at £3 and are offering. SUGARS.—Chinas are wanted and Peraks are offering. MINING.—Raubis are offering at \$24-23 locally. Punjoni are offering. Kaiping Mine market is easier and shares are obtainable at Tls. 260-245. Business was done during week at 260, 250, 265, 260, 270 and 260 for cash and 300 for November. DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd and Co., Ld. Cash sales took place from Tls. 277.50 to 285, market closing steady with sellers at Tls. 282.50. The following are the settlements:—290 and 285 for 30th inst., 295 and 292.50 for July, 302.50, 300 for September, 305 for October and 310 for November. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf market was active during week with sales up to Tls. 317.50 for cash, closing with sales and buyers at 315. Settlements were made for July at Tls. 320. LANDS.—Shanghai Lands were placed at Tls. 125. Humphreys Estate shares are offering. INDUSTRIAL.—Gas shares are offering. Major Bros. shares are wanted. In Cotton Mills, Laou Kung Mows sold at Tls. 50, Internationals at Tls. 40 and Yau Loongs at Tls. 27.50—the last named are wanted. Soy Chees and Ewos are offering. Ice shares sold at Tls. 35 and are offering. Flour Mills placed were at Tls. 37.50 and 40, and are wanted. Moutrie & Co. shares are offering. Green Island Cement shares were placed at \$20.50 and \$20 and are offering. TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.—Cargo Boats are offering. MISCELLANEOUS.—Sumatra Tobacco shares sold at Tls. 53 cash and are offering at lower rates. Settlement for September was made at Tls. 56. Langkat Tobacco market is steady with sales up to Tls. 345 cash, closing with sellers at this figure. Settlements were made for 30th inst., at 347.50 and 350, September 365, October 370, and December 385. Hall and Holtz shares sold at \$34 and are offering. Central Store ordinary shares were placed at \$13 and are wanted. Founders changed hands at \$35. DEBENTURES.—Shanghai Langkat 8 per cent. sold at Tls. 102 plus accrued interest.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

SATURDAY, 15th June.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.47 1/2
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.51 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.00 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	48 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	147 1/2
Bank, on demand	147 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	147 1/2
Bank, on demand	147 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	73 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	3 1/2
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	118
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	2 1/2
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	2 1/2
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	59 1/2
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	10.07
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	52.25
BAR SILVER per oz.	27 1/2

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

June—

8. Daybreak, British str., from Canton.
8. Phranang, German str., from Saigon.
8. Cassius, German str., from Moji.
8. Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.
8. Jaguar, German gunboat, from Pakhoi.
8. Geier, German cruiser, from Amoy.
8. Aristeo, Austrian str., from Moji.
8. Clam, British str., from Balik Papan.
8. Hoihao, French str., from Takow.
8. Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
8. Taishun, Amr. str., from Shanghai.
9. Esang, British str., from Newchwang.
9. Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
9. Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
9. Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
9. Taifu, German str., from Bangkok.
9. Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
9. Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
9. Picciola, German str., from Amoy.
9. Sabine Rickmers, British str., from Chefoo.
9. Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
10. Flandria, German str., from Shanghai.
10. Kalgan, British str., from Tongku.
10. Hsieh Ho, British str., from Canton.
10. Dardanus, British str., from Foochow.
10. C. F. Laeisz, German str., from Singapore.
10. Diamante, British str., from Manila.
10. Hue, French str., from Kwong-show-wan.
10. Trym, Norw. str., from Haiphong.
10. Peru, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
10. Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
10. Indravelli, British str., from Portland, Or.
11. Obi, British str., from Moji.
11. Glengyle, British transport, from Taku.
11. Fushun, British str., from Shanghai.
11. Lianshing, British str., from Canton.
11. Tetartos, German str., from Samarang.
11. Kiautschou, German str., from Hamburg.
11. Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
11. Rhein, German troopship, from Bremen.
11. Hailoong, British str., from Haiphong.
12. Macduff, British str., from Moji.
12. Hamburg, German str., from Yokohama.
12. Shinano Maru, Japanese str., from Japan.
12. Thales, British str., from Swatow.
12. Wittenburg, German str., from Shanghai.
12. Ichang, British str., from Canton.
12. Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
12. Kyoto Maru, Jap. str., from Saigon.
12. Oak Branch, British str., from Mororan.
12. Sambia, German str., from Hamburg.
12. Woosung, British str., from Canton.
12. Flandria, German str., from Canton.
12. Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
13. Katsuyama Maru, Jap. str., from Chefoo.
13. Progress, German str., from Tournon.
13. Glaucus, British str., from Liverpool.
13. Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
13. Belgian King, British str., from San Diego.
13. C. H. Kian, Dutch str., from Singapore.
13. Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
13. Hipsang, British str., from Swatow.
13. Oslo, Norwegian str., from Moji.
13. Shanghai, British str., from London.
13. Apenrade, German str., from Canton.
13. Kalgan, British str., from Canton.
13. Taishun, American str., from Canton.
14. Benlarig, British str., from Bangkok.
14. Esang, British str., from Canton.
14. Fausang, British str., from Java.
14. Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
14. Socotra, British str., from Yokohama.
14. Tsuruhiko Maru, Jap. str., from Zanzibar.
14. Leopard, Austrian cr., from Pescadores.
14. Hillglen, British str., from New York.
14. Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
14. Taichow, German str., from Bangkok.
14. Babelsberg, Ger. str., from Panarokang.
14. Hollisund, Amr. bark, from Freemantle.
15. Wurzburg, German str., from Bremen.
15. Ichang, British str., from Canton.
15. Sabine Rickmers, British str., from Canton.
15. Friant, French cruiser, from Amoy.
15. Duke of Fife, British str., from Moji.
15. Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Foochow.
15. Alcinous, British str., from Liverpool.
15. India, Austrian str., from Kobe.
15. Nanchang, British str., from Canton.
15. Taiyuan, British str., from Australia.
15. Would, British transport, from Calcutta.
15. Fushun, British str., from Canton.

- 16, Riojun Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
16, Natal, French str., from Japan.
16, Salazie, French str., from Marseilles.

DEPARTURES.

May—

- 8, Coromandel, British str., for Europe.
8, Bonaventure, British cruiser, for Home.
8, Tientsin, British str., for Moji.
8, Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.
8, Anping, British str., for Shanghai.
8, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
8, Amara, British str., for Bangkok.
8, Marie Jebben, German str., for Swatow.
8, Ula, British transport, for Taku.
8, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
8, Francois Arago, Fr. cable str., for Amoy.
9, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
9, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
9, Taishan, British str., for Amoy.
9, Salahdji, Dutch str., for Swatow.
9, Sardinia, Amr. schr., for Manila.
9, Glenfalloch, British str., for Swatow.
9, Taishun, Amr. str., for Canton.
9, Universe, Norw. str., for Moji.
10, Benledi, British str., for Weihaiwei.
10, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Canton.
10, Kalgan, British str., for Canton.
10, Esang, British str., for Canton.
10, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
10, J. Diederichsen, German str., for Pakhoi.
10, Apenrade, German str., for Canton.
10, Kaga Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
10, Itola, British transport, for Taku.
10, Changsha, British str., for Sydney.
10, Hermione, British cruiser, for Shanghai.
10, Canning, British trspt., for Calcutta.
11, Algerine, British sloop, for Shanghai.
11, Talbot, British cruiser, for Yokohama.
11, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., for San Francisco.
11, Louise J. Kenney, Amr. sch., for Yap.
11, Aristeia, Austrian str., for Moji.
11, Dr. H. J. Liser, Norw. str., for Sarawak.
11, Hue, French str., for Kwong-chow-wan.
11, Cassius, German str., for Moji.
11, Tsintau, German str., for Nagasaki.
11, Sarnia, German str., for Foochow.
11, Picciola, German str., for Swatow.
11, Kong Beng, British str., for Bangkok.
11, Loongmoo, German str., for Shanghai.
11, Hsieh Ho, British str., for Chinkiang.
11, Kwangse, British str., for Saigon.
11, Dardanus, British str., for London.
11, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
11, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
11, Fushun, British str., for Canton.
11, Chingtu, British trspt., for Taku.
12, Daybreak, British str., for Shanghai.
12, Clam, British str., for Swatow.
12, Lienshing, British str., for Swatow.
12, C. F. Lucisz, German str., for Taintau.
12, Michael Jebben, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
12, Kiautschou, German str., for Shanghai.
12, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
12, Glengyle, British trspt., for Calcutta.
12, Rhein, German trspt., for Shanghai.
13, Hamburg, German str., for Europe.
13, Bormida, Italian str., for Bombay.
13, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
13, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
13, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.
14, Shinano Maru, Jap. str., for London.
14, Rhipeus, Dutch str., for Singapore.
14, Hailoong, British str., for Haiphong.
14, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
14, Katsuyama Maru, Jap. str., for Canton.
14, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'chinotzu.
14, Jaguar, German g.-bt., for Pakhoi.
14, Sambia, German str., for Yokohama.
14, Wittenburg, German str., for Hamburg.
14, Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
14, Flandria, German str., for Shanghai.
14, Taishun, Amr. str., for Shanghai.
14, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
15, Cheang Hook Kian, Dutch str., for Amoy.
15, Clara, German str., for Hoihow.
15, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.
15, Esang, British str., for Swatow.
15, Ichang, British str., for Saigon.
15, Shanghai, British str., for Shanghai.
15, Athenian, British str., for Vancouver.
15, Meade, U.S. transport, for Manila.
15, Taifu, German str., for Chefoo.
15, Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
15, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
15, Oslo, Norw. str., for Phnang.
15, Hipsang, British str., for Shanghai.

- 15, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
16, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
16, Diamante, British str., for Manila.
16, Tetartos, German str., for Saigon.
16, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
16, Macduff, British str., for Shi-wui-yau.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Canning*, from Taku, Mr. Davies.
Per *Haimun*, from Tamsui, &c., Mrs. Pearne and child and Mr. A. Macgowan.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Jordan, Capt. and Mrs. Palmer and child, Paymaster Wyer, Potter and Beo, U.S.N., Lieut. Edgar, U.S.A., Messrs. Ellam Dawson, Monford, C. C. Higgins, C. Wayton, Van de L. Cruz, Henderson, Fanel, Thomas, Charley, Woolenben, Speakes, Struthers, Nolan, Arnold, Bulgin, Harrison and Blackwood.

Per *Tatshun*, from Shanghai, Mr. Maundrell and child, Lieut. Stone, U.S.N., and Mr. Witmus.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Mrs. Buttrick, Messrs. Powell, Bond, Faulk, McCoy, Cumbaek and Rore.

Per *Diamante*, from Manila, Messrs. Tomerley, Denny, Kroop, Stevenson and Tianco.

Per *Lightning*, from Calcutta, &c., Mrs. Graham and Messrs. Atkinson and Dyson.

Per *Peru*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. B. Waper, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Brown, Mrs. D. H. Skidmore, Messrs. J. Stuart Thomson, D. M. Tucker, W. G. Skidmore, F. E. Emery and E. W. Sandison.

Per *Kiautschou*, from Genoa, for Hongkong, Miss Clara Hugendubel, Mr. and Mrs. Heinrich Ziegler, for Shanghai, Messrs. Adolf Hackmack, Ernst Hartmann, Dr. and Mrs. Aug. Klosters, Messrs. Hubert Kolf, A. Lamperski, Miss Hildegard Schonborn, Messrs. Hans Schroeter, Alex. Schulte, Wick, Mrs. Helene Wolf, Messrs. Arthur Wolf, Hildegard Wolf, Hannechen Wolf and Erich Wolf; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Oliveira Lima; from Naples, for Shanghai, General-Consul and Major Cesare Nerazzini; from Port Said, Mr. Carl Meyer; from Aden, Dr. von Borch; from Southampton, Mr. Harris, Sir John Lister Kaye, Bart. and Mr. Thompson and family; from Hamburg, Mrs. Adele Hermann, Mrs. E. Korb, Messrs. Erna Korb, Hugo Korb and Paul Linke; from Hamburg, for Kobe, Mr. Thomas Smith and Miss Luise Vespermann; for Yokohama, Mr. Max Schluter.

Per *Thales*, from Swatow, Mrs. Harding and four children, Mr. and Mrs. Smith and daughter, Mrs. Teape, Mrs. Andrews and Mr. Reynell.

Per *Hamburg*, from Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Sayer, Mrs. Yam and children, Lieut. M. C. Buckey, Messrs. H. Wibel, F. O. Seaton, Schaake, E. Trinkaus and B. Fernandez; from Kobe, Messrs. E. Figueiredo and H. T. Wilgills; from Nagasaki, Dr. R. M. Gibson and Mr. H. R. Wells; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Saxton, Messrs. Farrow, Thomas, Mrs. Hamlin, Mr. Geo. Jameson, Mr. and Mrs. Villasanda, Vice-Consul Natiesta, Miss Johnstone, Mr. A. Marti and Mr. and Mrs. Cousins; from Foochow, Mr. Kardinsky.

Per *Shinano Maru*, from Japan, for Singapore, Capt. and Mrs. Wynter; for Europe, Com. S. Hishiyama, Chief Surgeon A. Saitow, Senior Lieut. Y. Mukai, Lieut. I. Tashiro, Chief Engr. T. Nagayama, Chief Paymaster K. Ishimoto, Lieut. H. Hatto, Engr. I. Fujiye, Engr. H. Tanenaka, Sub-Lieut. K. Komori, Sub-Lieut. I. Kiyawara, Messrs. J. Hagiwara and L. Deweth, Mrs. and Miss Deweth, Gunner T. Hishioka, Artificers Y. Tominaga, Y. Samoto, Y. Iwamura and N. Tanaka.

Per *Belgian King*, from San Diego, &c., Dr. Razley.

Per *Taisang*, from Shanghai, &c., Mrs. Carmichael and son.

Per *Shanghai*, for Hongkong, from London, Messrs. McKinna, R.N. and Chapman, R.N.; from Brindisi, Mr. Rene Granger; from Penang, Mr. R. Curtis; for Shanghai, from London, Mr. Davidson and Lieut. F. D. Farquhar; from Penang, Mr. Berkley.

DEPARTED.

Per *Chusan*, for Shanghai, from Hongkong, Messrs. W. C. D'Harty and A. J. David; from Penang, Messrs. H. J. and W. J. Martin; from Bombay, Mr. Winteler and Rev. C. S. Stalker; from Marseilles, Messrs. Griffin and Clarke; from London, Mr. H. Franklin.

Per *Tosa Maru*, for Yokohama, Lieuts. D. W. Knox, J. P. Dyer and D. Potter, Mrs. Owaka, Messrs. H. Noro and T. Watanabe.

Per *Perla*, for Manila, Messrs. W. S. Jackson, F. R. Wardle, H. E. Waite, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Taylor, Messrs. J. A. Jupp and W. Puddeplia, Mrs. Demec and child, Messrs. J. Rodriguez, M. Rodriguez, E. Rodriguez, L. Rodriguez, F. Grugen, J. Pawgan and J. H. Beacom.

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